



DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

November 15, 2021

Dear Members of Catholic Schools Communities in the Diocese of Oakland,

On October 1, 2021, Governor Newsom announced his intention to require all California school children to receive a COVID-19 vaccination for in-person school attendance. Since then, the FDA and CDC have extended Emergency Use Authorization (EAU) for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to individuals 5 years old and up. ***This EAU has not impacted the [California Immunization Requirements](#) currently in place for our TK/K – 12 schools.***

State law currently requires students in public, private and charter schools to be vaccinated for: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella (Chickenpox), Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, and Hepatitis B, in order to be enrolled in school. Only medical exemptions are allowed for these required vaccinations. No religious or personal belief exemptions are accepted for these. This list of required vaccinations can be expanded by the Governor and State health authorities. However, if this list is expanded without legislative approval, the law requires the accompanying mandate include a medical exemption and a personal belief exemption.

There is no COVID-19 Vaccine mandate currently in place for students. We anticipate the state legislature will take up a bill in January 2022 to decide if the COVID-19 vaccine should be added to the existing list of required vaccines. The public will have an opportunity to voice their opinion to their respective state representative as the legislative process moves through the state assembly and senate. In addition, the FDA and CDC must still consider full general use approval of the vaccine for individuals 5 years old and up. Our diocesan leadership team will continue to monitor these developments and will keep you all informed as decisions are made.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, flexibility and understanding as we navigate this situation. Our team remains steadfast to the principles that have informed our decisions throughout this pandemic: rooting ourselves in Christ; protecting the health of our students, faculty and staff; and adhering to the law and directives from local/state health officials.

In anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday next week, I want to tell you how grateful I am to you for the sacrifices you make to enroll your children in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Oakland. Please know the safety and wellbeing of our students is paramount in decision making and that we appreciate the ability to partner with our parents and guardians to ensure that each child gets to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.

At your service,

Andrew Currier