

- If the legislature decides to allow for a personal belief exemption, the Diocese of Orange will accept any parent request for exemption as valid.
- If the legislature decides not to allow for a personal belief exemption, the Diocese of Orange, by law, will not be allowed to accept a parent request for exemption.

Additionally, many parents who have reached out have shared their understanding that the Bishop and/or superintendent has the authority to choose whether to implement the vaccine mandate. This is simply not true. As previously stated, the Diocese of Orange will uphold the law and will not deviate from public health mandates. Both the law and public health mandates apply to all schools: public, private, religious, and charter. Those school and system leaders who state otherwise are misinformed and misleading.

The question of COVID mandates divides our parent communities as it divides our societies. We hope that this transparency by the diocese balances the need to protect the health of our students, teachers, and staff with the rights of parents to decide issues vital to their children.

May God continue to grant us His Grace as we continue our journey.

In mission,



Erin C.O. Barisano, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Orange

CC: Most Reverend Kevin W. Vann, J. C. D., D. D.