



DIOCESE OF LAS VEGAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

November 19, 2020

Dear Elementary School Parents,

As this second trimester of the school year continues, I am writing to thank you for your support of our Reopening Plans and initiatives. Through your cooperation, our schools continue to successfully offer daily, in-person instruction while ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff. While all of our schools provide regular reminders urging our families to be vigilant regarding health recommendations at home and particularly with respect to social gatherings, this will be essential as we look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In consideration of several factors and in consultation with our Diocesan Restoration Council that includes the medical professionals so graciously offering their expertise and guidance to our schools, the decision has been made that our elementary schools will resume in-person instruction on Monday, November 30, 2020, as per the original school year calendar. Conversely, Bishop Gorman High School will move to 100% online/virtual learning from November 30th through December 4th and will resume in-person instruction on December 7, 2020, as outlined for the school's families in a separate communication.

This decision was carefully determined and based on what we believe is in the best interest of our schools, our students, and our families. Our younger students require supervision in their daily routines and activities, and that supervision creates a significant distinction between them and our high school students. High school students are generally more independent and have more personal freedom in their routines and activities. One of the most important considerations was being able to maintain educational continuity for our elementary school students and the families who are relying on our schools on behalf of their students for in-person learning.

As Governor Sisolak continues to ask all Nevadans to do their part in containing the spread of COVID-19, [the CDC offers the following considerations](#) in an effort to protect our families, friends, and communities during the upcoming holiday season and ensure a safe and healthy return to our campuses after the holidays:

- The location of the gathering – Indoor gatherings generally pose more risk than outdoor gatherings. Indoor gatherings with poor ventilation pose more risk than those with good ventilation, such as those with open windows or doors.
- The duration of the gathering – Gatherings that last longer pose more risk than shorter gatherings.
- The number of people attending the gathering – The size of a holiday gathering should be determined based on the ability to reduce or limit contact between attendees and the risk of spread between attendees as outlined in the [Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#).
- The locations attendees are traveling from – Gatherings with attendees who are traveling from different places pose a higher risk than gatherings with attendees who live in the same area. Higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread in the gathering location, or where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees.
- The behaviors of attendees prior to the gathering – Gatherings with attendees who are not adhering to social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart), mask wearing, hand washing, and other prevention behaviors pose more risk than gatherings with attendees who are engaging in these preventative behaviors.

- People with - or exposed to COVID-19: Do not host or participate in any in-person gatherings if you or anyone in your household:
 - Has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has [not met the criteria for when it is safe to be around others](#)
 - Has [symptoms of COVID-19](#)
 - Is waiting for COVID-19 [viral test](#) results
 - May have been [exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days](#)
 - Is at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19

According to the CDC, [the risk factors of COVID-19 spreading at events and gatherings](#) increases as follows:

- Lowest risk: Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.
- More risk: Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
- Higher risk: Medium-sized in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and with attendees coming from outside the local area.
- Highest risk: Large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and attendees travel from outside the local area.

Speaking on behalf of each of our schools, I wish to express my thanks for your continued cooperation and support. We consistently receive high marks, from all entities, pertaining to the protocols we have in place. This is only made possible due to the tremendous lengths our faculty, staff, and administrators go to on a daily basis. Through their incredible efforts we have been able to accomplish the re-opening of our schools with such success.

Hopefully, this brief overview contains information to assist you in ensuring the safe return of our students, teachers, and staff once the holidays have ended. May this Thanksgiving be a time of grace and blessings for each of you.

Respectfully,



Catherine Thompson
Superintendent of Catholic Schools