



Catholic Diocese of Saginaw

10/5/20

Dear Catholic School Community,

Our schools remain committed to providing a safe environment for all of our students, families, and staff. The recent decision of the Michigan Supreme Court regarding the emergency power of Governor Whitmer does not alter that commitment. The [preparedness plan](#) developed by the Diocese of Saginaw Back to School Task Force was guided by the best practices and recommendations of national, state, and local health agencies, as well as the Return to Learn Roadmap. In many cases, the task force supported prevention and mitigation strategies that exceeded those required by the state. Each school in the diocese has approved and instituted its own specific plan, using the Diocese plan as a foundation. These plans remain in place and are not affected by the ruling of the court.

Recently, the governor issued an order that requires students in kindergarten through 5th grade to wear masks while in the classroom. That order takes effect today, October 5. In a [statement](#) responding to the court's decision, the governor noted that

“It is important to note that this ruling does not take effect for at least 21 days, and until then, my emergency declaration and orders retain the force of law. Furthermore, after 21 days, many of the responsive measures I have put in place to control the spread of the virus will continue under alternative sources of authority that were not at issue in today's ruling.”

As a result of this timeline, students in kindergarten through 5th grade are expected to wear face masks while in the classroom.

Over the coming days, I will be reaching out to the Diocese Task Force, working with building principals, pastors, and school boards to consider what, if any, adjustments may need to be made to our current plans. I am grateful for the continued collaboration between our parents and schools that has allowed us to provide in-person instruction with limited disruptions. I look forward to working with all appropriate parties to ensure that we can continue to provide a safe, healthy, and Christ centered learning environment for our students.

Respectfully,

Cormac Lynn
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