



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIocese OF LAFAYETTE

1408 CARMEL DRIVE

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70501-5215

TELEPHONE: 337-261-5614 FAX: 337-261-5603

TO: PRINCIPALS
DATE: August 4, 2021
RE: **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:
COVID-19 – UPDATED PROTOCOLS 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Our first desire is the mission of quality Catholic education in a safe and Christ-like environment. Our commitment to ensure that the children of the Diocese develop spiritually, intellectually, physically and emotionally to their fullest potential continues to drive our daily activities, even in the face of the challenges of today.

As we prepare for the coming school year, please be mindful of the following protocols which are based on the directives of the Governor's office, the Louisiana Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

In the interest of protecting our students, faculty, staff and administration, as well as the public at large, the Diocese of Lafayette is implementing a mask/face-covering mandate consistent with the Governor's order and the CDC's guidance. Masks/face-coverings should cover the wearer's mouth and nose and should be worn at indoor gatherings at all times. The mandate applies to all persons on diocesan school campuses except for the following (from the Governor's Proclamation Number 137 JBE 2021):

- Any child under the age of five not enrolled in a kindergarten program
- Any individual with a medical condition that prevents the wearing of a mask/face covering
- Any individual who is consuming food or drinks
- Any individual seeking to communicate with a person who has, or is suspected of having, a communication disorder
- Any individual giving a speech for broadcast or to an audience
- Any individual temporarily removing his or her face covering for identification purposes

The Diocese is acutely aware of, and respectful of, the differences of opinion voiced by individuals and political leaders relating to the use of masks/face-coverings and corresponding government mandates. Parents and students are reminded that diocesan schools are private institutions that have the right to establish policies relating to the safety of their students, faculty, staff and administrators. The impetus behind this policy is safety and health and we are hopeful that all parents and students will comply regardless of their personal opinions and philosophies.

With every good wish, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, D.D.
Bishop of Lafayette

Cc: School Pastors/Chancellors