



Updates Regarding Guidelines During the Coronavirus Pandemic November 19, 2020

This week, as coronavirus cases rise in California, both Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties have returned to the more restrictive Purple Tier designation. Please see November 17 health orders for Santa Barbara County ([HERE](#)) and Ventura County ([HERE](#)).

Please note that the *Covid-19 Guidelines for Parishes and Schools* (November 17, 2020), *Parish Liturgical Guidelines* (October 14, 2020), and *Parish Office Return to Work Safety Protocols* (October 14, 2020) remain in effect.

Parish offices should have been closed to the public and will remain so. Parish ministries will continue to meet remotely.

If you have a confirmed case of COVID-19 that involves your parish or school, with a staff member, volunteer, student or visitor, please complete [THIS FORM \(under “COVID-19 Reporting”\)](#) and follow the instructions for reporting to the Archdiocese. Please contact Marina Macchiagodena (Mamacchiagodena@la-archdiocese.org) or Isaac Cuevas (ICuevas@la-archdiocese.org) for any further questions.

Masses and Other Celebrations of Holiday and Feast Days

- In Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, Mass and other religious services must be held outdoors and observe Purple Tier Protocols. Please see the [Parish Liturgical Guidelines](#) for additional information on the requirements for parishes in Purple Tier counties.
- Events, social gatherings, festivals, and fairs are not permitted.

Musical groups may join a religious gathering outside, as applicable, provided they adhere to the following:

- Group has only one lead vocalist.
- The vocalist is located at least 12 feet away from anyone else, including the other group members.
- Any other group members are at least 6 feet away from one another.
- String, percussion, and keyboards are allowed.
- Wind and brass instruments are not allowed.
- Sharing of microphones is not allowed.
- Congregations are not encouraged to sing, but rather should be encouraged to pray silently with the music.

TK-12 Schools

- All schools currently opened under waivers, high-need student cohorts, school-aged childcare/pre-school, and/or opened while their respective county was in the “red” tier are permitted to remain open.
- Los Angeles County stated this week that they are not planning to stop or slow the TK-2 waiver application program, or the high-need student cohort program.
- Ventura and Santa Barbara counties are permitting all schools who previously opened or were in the process of reopening to remain open. Any school that did not open prior to the move to the “purple” tier can request a waiver to reopen for grades TK-6.
- Please contact Ryan Halverson (RHalverson@la-archdiocese.org) at the Department of Catholic Schools for any questions about school waivers and reopening programs.
- For additional information, please refer to Superintendent Paul Escala’s email communication sent on Monday, November 16th.

Travel

- Many counties and other parts of the world are seeing an increase in coronavirus cases. While there are currently no travel restrictions in place, it’s best to avoid unnecessary travel whenever possible. If travel is required, keep the following top of mind:
- Those who have travelled out of California and are returning or entering the state are urged to quarantine for 14 days.
- Avoid large crowds whenever possible. Avoid close contact with people during the trip and upon return to minimize the potential for exposure.
- Use a mask when traveling.
- Limit contact with frequently touched surfaces, such as handrails, elevator buttons and kiosks. If you must touch these surfaces, use hand sanitizer, or wash your hands afterward.
- Quarantine time may be required by anyone exhibiting symptoms after returning from a trip.