



For Immediate Release
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Catholic school campuses in San Bernardino County to reopen

SAN BERNARDINO – With COVID-19 infection rates sufficiently declined in San Bernardino County, Catholic elementary schools there will welcome students back to campus for the first time in nearly a year beginning Monday, Feb. 22.

A joint letter from Bishop Alberto Rojas and Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. Sam Torres to school families made the announcement on Feb. 18.

“We have some exciting news!” the letter reads, explaining that San Bernardino County has seen its COVID-19 case rate fall below the threshold of 25 infections per 100,000 people. “Therefore, we are fortunate to offer reopening of the Catholic schools in the county of San Bernardino effective February 22, 2021.”

Per state regulations, the reopening applies to students in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade. Because the COVID-19 infection rates have not yet dipped below the required threshold in Riverside County, Catholic elementary schools there will not reopen on Feb. 22.

The Diocese of San Bernardino has 12 elementary schools in San Bernardino County: St. Peter and St. Paul, Alta Loma; St. Margaret Mary, Chino; Resurrection Academy, Fontana; St. Adelaide Academy, Highland; Our Lady of Lourdes, Montclair; St. George, Ontario; Sacred Heart, Rancho Cucamonga; Sacred Heart Academy, Redlands; St. Catherine of Siena, Rialto; Holy Rosary Academy, San Bernardino; Our Lady of the Assumption, San Bernardino; and St. Joseph, Upland.

The reopening schedule for the San Bernardino County elementary schools calls for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students to be back on campus beginning Feb. 22; first and second graders beginning Feb. 24; and third through sixth graders back on March 1.

All 12 San Bernardino schools have had reopening plans with specific health and safety protocols in place for months in anticipation of the opportunity to reopen their campuses when statistical benchmarks were reached. “Our principals have been preparing for this day,” Bishop Rojas and Superintendent Torres state in their letter. “The campuses have been prepared and the principals, faculty and staff are anxiously awaiting the reunion of students to campus.”

Measures taken at all reopened schools will include,

- Morning temperature checks for all students, faculty and staff
- Mandatory hand sanitizing throughout the school day for all
- Mandatory wearing of face coverings for all students, faculty and staff
- Students and teachers will remain in the same cohort throughout the day (no movement of classes)

Other measures taken by some of the Catholic schools include installation of three-sided plastic shields around each desk, and spacing desks four to six feet apart. Each school's reopening health and safety guidelines are detailed on its website.

The San Bernardino County Catholic schools will continue to offer instruction through Catholic Online Synchronous Learning (COSL) for those families who are not comfortable with their children re-entering a public setting for school.

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