

Schools to reopen on Monday, April 12; Church reiterates concerns over Easter Holy Week



The Greek government on Wednesday announced that high schools will reopen throughout the country, without exceptions, on Monday, April 12, after a blue chip committee of epidemiologists and public health experts gave their approval, in a majority vote.

The reopening will be accompanied by strict Covid-19 precautions, such as the mandatory wearing of face masks by pupils and educators, different recess times for classes, the avoidance of mixing pupils from different classes, stepped up disinfection of the premises, and an obligatory negative result derived from self-tests that will be made available for free and acquired from neighborhood pharmacies.

As far as the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece is concerned, hierarchs continue to express heightened concerns on how cathedrals and chapels will hold services during Holy Easter Week, which culminates

with Easter Sunday, which this year falls on May 2.

The Church of Greece has repeatedly stated that it will not accept a repeat of last year's situation, when Holy Services were held without the presence of worshipers.

The Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, recently underlined that he and the Archdiocese will take all necessary measures to ensure that public health precautions and restrictions will be fulfilled – and with churches open to worshippers.

Members of the standing Holy Synod of the Church of Greece continue to have direct contact with the Greek government over this very sensitive issue.

