



9 September 2021

Re: COVID protocols as of this date

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues for dioceses in the Province of Alberta. The Chief Medical Officer of Health CMOH Order 40-2021 states the following which pertains particularly to places of worship. <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/cmoh-order-40-2021.pdf>

- **Par. 3.1** - Except as set out in this Order, a person must wear a face mask at all times while attending an indoor public place.
- **Par. 4.2** - For greater certainty, masks must be worn at a wedding or funeral that is held in an indoor public place.
- **Par. 4.11** – Despite Part 3 of this Order, a person is not required to wear a face mask while participating at a worship service at a place a worship. This update is being released to provide clarification.

Masking Measures

- Masks are mandatory in all indoor public spaces and workplaces.
 - Mask use is not required if **♣**
 - The individual is under 2 years of age **♣**
 - The individual qualifies for a medical exception.
 - Employees must mask in all indoor work settings, except in work stations.
 - Schools are not required to implement masking, but school boards will continue to set COVID19 management policies as they deem appropriate.
- **Congregational singing is suspended at this time.**
- Only one (1) cantor/soloist is allowed.

- The cantor/soloist must wear the mask while singing/chanting and must be located away from the congregation and the instrumentalists/musicians.
- The use of the mask is required when singing/chanting since this activity tends to project more spray/mist of respiratory droplets or aerosol.
- Singing by the cantor/soloist will be limited to the following
 - ♣ Entrance antiphon or unfamiliar hymn
 - ♣ Preparation of the altar
 - ♣ Communion
 - ♣ Recessional
- Instrumental music may replace singing.
- The offertory procession will not resume at this time to avoid unnecessary contact with the vessels. Its resumption will be decided by the end of October 2021.

Distribution of Holy Communion (REVISED)

- Communion is only given under one species – the consecrated Host.
- Communion on the tongue continues to be offered.
- If the Ordinary/Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion comes in contact with the Communicant in the distribution, please sanitize hands with a quick-drying, alcohol-based hand sanitizer before continuing to distribute Holy Communion.
- The Precious Blood will only be available to the celebrant and concelebrants.
- Concelebrants should receive by intinction from a separate chalice if there are more than one.
- For a single concelebrant, he may partake of the Precious Blood by drinking from the separate chalice and purifying it himself.

Parish Offices

- Masks are mandatory in all indoor workplaces, except when working alone in an office or a safely distanced cubicle or an appropriate barrier is in place.
- This applies to all employees, visitors, delivery personnel, and contractors.
- Working from home should be considered, where possible, when it does not hinder the normal operations of the parish.

Social Gathering Measures

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- Albertans are encouraged to limit in-person contacts.
- Unvaccinated Albertans are strongly recommended to limit indoor social gatherings to close contacts of only 2 cohort families up to a maximum of 10 people.
- As regards the use of the parish hall, in-person meetings and faith-based meetings, which are not social gatherings, are allowed to continue without restriction on the number of attendees, i.e. council meetings, RCIA, support groups, etc. Masks must be worn at all times.

Other

- Parishes that have livestreaming capabilities are encouraged to continue with livestreaming Masses for those who are not comfortable with returning to Mass in person.
- Please replace the mandatory masks posters/signage provided by the government in parish facilities with this new poster. Posters are included with this notice.
- Continue to promote proper hand hygiene by having hand washing/sanitizing posters visible and placing hand sanitizer stations in convenient and accessible locations.
- Make every effort to encourage respiratory etiquette (e.g., coughing or sneezing into a bent elbow, promptly disposing of used tissues in a lined garbage bin).



Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.