

Archdiocese of Baltimore
Guidelines for Responding to the COVID-19 Virus
June 19, 2020

To limit the amount of information being shared and to make this document as easy to read and helpful as possible, it will be limited to mostly updated/new information. Limited “repeat” information is included in italics. A comprehensive set of guidelines can be found at www.archbalt.org/coronavirus.

General

- A. **Baltimore City Reopening.** As of today, Friday, June 19 at 5:00 p.m., Baltimore City will move to Phase 2 of their reopening process and will allow religious institutions to resume indoor services at up to 50% capacity. Please keep in mind that Archdiocesan guidelines remain in place asking parishes to limit attendance to 1/3 seating capacity. The **attached** infographic includes additional information on opening other facilities as well.
- B. **Personnel Guidance.** Also **attached** is guidance intended to help locations make appropriate decisions on personnel actions if they face financial challenges.
- C. **Caution on floor damage due to hand sanitizer.** Hand washing and sanitization is a critical component of the measures to be taken to limit the spread of the COVID-19. However, please be aware that alcohol, which is contained in nearly all hand sanitizers, can act as a solvent and dissolve floor wax, as well as in some cases cause damage to certain floors covering such as some lesser quality linoleums. Drips or splashes of the sanitizer can result in dull and discolored spots, known as “bite” marks, on waxed floors. The only way to remedy the condition is to completely strip and wax the affected floors. To avoid this problem we encourage placing rugs or other protective covering in the areas where hand sanitizer is used and asking attendees to thoroughly apply the sanitizer to their hands before moving away from the floor protection. Please also try to ensure that any floor covering or floor protection does not create any trip and fall hazards.

Communication

- A. *Repeat information: A page on the archdiocesan website has been established where all pastoral resources will be kept: <https://www.archbalt.org/pastoralresources/>*
- B. *Repeat information: There is one central contact for the Archdiocese for all questions, concerns and reports involving the COVID-19 virus: riskmanagement@archbalt.org. As more information becomes available and as we learn of other questions or concerns more updates will be forthcoming. Updates will also be posted to <https://www.archbalt.org/coronavirus/>, where you can refer parishioners and others for the latest information and news.*