

Archdiocese of Baltimore
Guidelines for Responding to the COVID-19 Virus
August 20, 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. Protocol Reminders. Responding properly at the time a presumptive or positive COVID-19 case is presented must continue to be a key operational consideration for all parishes. As these procedures can be confusing, we wanted to provide clarification below particularly regarding the 14-day quarantine requirement for anyone who has been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID. As each parish works through these considerations, please be sure your response protocols clearly address the following:

1. For an individual who has **tested positive for COVID-19**, this individual must self-isolate for a period of no less than 10 days from the first onset of symptoms. Moreover, the individual who has tested positive must complete the period of isolation and be symptom free for a period of 24 hours at the time of completing the self-isolation.
2. For an individual identified as having come into **close contact** with a positive COVID-19 person, that individual must complete a period of **quarantine for 14 days** from the **day of last exposure to the person diagnosed positive for COVID-19**. Receiving a negative test for COVID-19 during the period of quarantine **does not** release the individual from the 14 day quarantine. Testing is still encouraged during this period of quarantine even though it has no impact on allowing a person to break the 14 day quarantine.
3. The complete guidance documents that were previously sent out on these protocols are **attached** again for your convenience.

For further information, please go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/contact-tracing.html>.

B. Choirs. While congregational singing continues to be prohibited, parishes may consider the use of a small choir that is separated from the congregation by at least 18 feet or in a choir loft (keeping away from the edge of the loft). The choir members must also be social distanced and as far away from each other and other musicians as possible.

C. In-Home Faith Formation Classes. While the continuation of parish faith formation programs is vital and strongly encouraged, due to safety precautions, in-home parish-sponsored faith formation classes are not allowed.

D. **Use of Parish or School Facilities for “Schooling Groups.”** Please note that the general prohibition on allowing third-party use of facilities for outside groups applies to families or other groups wishing to hold small “schooling groups” in our facilities.

E. **Fundraisers.** Please remember that in-person parish fund raiser activities, such as Christmas bazaars and other events involving large numbers of people, are not allowed at this time. Creative ways of conducting such events include on-line auctions, online ordering of crafts and food items with a pick-up option, etc.

F. **Soccer Season.** The Archdiocese will not be organizing a travel Soccer season for 2020. Please see the **attached** document for the official announcement.

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.*