

May 27, 2021

COVID-19 Weekly Guidance include:

Third Party Use of Facilities - Parishes and schools can resume, should they so choose at this time, the practice of renting parish or school facilities to third parties.

- Locations must ensure that the lessee of the facility is aware of any COVID-19 related restrictions and requirements, whether by local order, state order or parish guidance.
- The lessee must agree to comply with such guidance as part of the rental agreement.
- All requirements, including use agreements and evidence of insurance, as was required prior to the pandemic remain in force and are to be adhered to for those locations that elect to resuming offering their facilities for rent to third parties.

In-Home Gatherings - Parishes are permitted to resume the practice of permitting in-person gatherings in private homes.

- Parishes wishing to sponsor such activities must ensure the homeowner where the sessions will be held is fully agreeable to such use and will work to ensure reasonable measures are taken to ensure the health and safety of all in attendance.
- Parishes should provide to those hosting such events guidance as to practices to be in place to ensure the gatherings are conducted in such a manner to safeguard against the introduction and spread of the COVID virus.
- Rosters of those in attendance should be maintained for a minimum of 60 days after the activity in the event contact tracing is required.
- All other pre-pandemic requirements and guidance, particularly as it relates to Child and Youth Protection, must be adhered to and closely monitored by the parish.

Vaccination Mandates - At this time the Archdiocese is not mandating that individuals must be vaccinated in order to participate in any specific programs or ministries.

- It is requested parishes not mandate vaccinations in order to participate in ministries and other programs. However, parishes must

ensure if venues being served such as hospitals, nursing homes, senior centers or the like require that those coming to the venue must be vaccinated, it is the parish's responsibility that those assigned volunteers and ministers are properly vaccinated.

- If individuals such as the sick, homebound and others specifically request that the individual making the visit or offering the support be vaccinated, the parish should then make every effort to honor that request.

Sick and Homebound Visits - Clergy with underlying health conditions continue to be reminded to safeguard their own health. However, if in the judgment of the clergy member they wish to proceed with visiting the sick and homebound, even in light of their own underlying health considerations, it is up to the individual judgment of the clergy member as to whether or not to resume sick and homebound care ministries.

Collection Baskets - Parishes are to continue to refrain from using collection baskets that must be passed between congregants. Use of collection baskets with poles and used by ushers is permitted.

Communion – Whether or not face coverings are required to be worn by priests and other ministers of the mass while distributing communion is to be decided upon by the pastor or parish administrator.

- Please continue to refrain from distributing The Most Precious Blood to the faithful.

- All concelebrating priests, as well as deacons assisting at the Mass, may continue receive Holy Communion at the usual time and in the usual manner. However, each must continue to have a separate chalice from the main celebrant or receive by intinction.

Congregational Singing - Congregational singing is permitted and congregates are free to participate in singing whether masked or unmasked.

Hymnals and misselettes - Parishes may resume the use of hymnals and misselettes. Sanitization or cleaning is not required at any greater frequency than would have been performed pre-pandemic.