

1. Masking - As was communicated on May 16, 2021, the archdiocese advised the wearing of masks is no longer mandated on parish campuses in the Archdiocese of Baltimore - unless it is required by the local jurisdiction. This announcement was in response to both the guidance issued by the CDC and the Order of Governor Hogan lifting the masking requirement. It is important to stress and reinforce the announcement went onto to **strongly encourage those who are not vaccinated to continue to mask**. The archdiocese encourages all of those who are not vaccinated to **continue to mask**. This guidance includes those individuals under the age of 12 who are not yet eligible for the vaccine. We understand enforcing those who are not vaccinated to continue to wear masks has its challenges, therefore we are relying on individuals to practice personal responsibility when choosing not to wear a mask.

2. Implementation of Guidance - Over the past few weeks, the Archdiocese has issued a number of changes to our guidance. This has included significant changes including:

- the reduction of required social distancing
- resuming the sign of peace without actual person to person contact
- resumption of the presentation of the gifts
- congregational singing
- the removal of the masking requirement for those who are vaccinated

When it comes to the timing of such guidance, the Archdiocese at times must respond quickly and often on the eve of weekend masses due to the timing of the changes made by Maryland and local jurisdiction orders. Please note that the measures and timing by which the guidance is ultimately implemented is to be done so at the discretion and direction of the pastor or parish administrator. The archdiocese asks that all parishes continue to move forward with efforts to reopen operations while understanding, due to parameters specific to individual parishes, changes cannot be carried through with the same timeline across all parishes.

3. Carpooling - Parishes are allowed to resume the use of carpooling for parish events that are occurring offsite. All guidance that was in force

prior to COVID-19 remain in force including the age of the driver, the verification of an approved driving record and affirmation of current auto insurance on the vehicle. In addition, until further notice, when carpooling all occupants of the vehicle must wear a mask during the duration of the travel. This guidance is in line with the Governor's order which requires the use of face coverings on public transportation. The only exemption from face coverings would apply only if all members in the vehicle are from the same household.

4. Coping During COVID - A **free** webinar is available from the Department of Homeland Security, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to support faith and community organizations, emergency managers and first responders who are serving in communities in the U.S. or around the world in response to COVID-19 and/or have personally experienced the traumatic impact of COVID-19. For more information, please visit: [Webinar Registration - Zoom \(zoomgov.com\)](#)