

Archdiocese of Baltimore
Guidelines for Responding to the COVID-19 Virus
June 12, 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.

Sacramental

- A. Group Confirmation 2020:** Pastors may now consider whether they wish to personally confirm (or delegate others to do this within their territory) those young persons who were scheduled to be confirmed during the spring of 2020, but because of the pandemic were not able to receive the sacrament. The sacrament may be administered at daily Masses, in smaller groups, etc. to accommodate the unique situation of each parish and the need to conform with local regulations. It is important not to “hold over” until next year those who are already properly prepared and disposed indefinitely.

Pastors may also choose to seek out the assistance of a local bishop who may be available to administer the sacrament depending on their schedule.

- B. Group Confirmation – Spring 2021:** Parishes will be contacted soon to schedule spring 2021 confirmation visits with bishops in hopes that the health situation will have improved sufficiently to allow these to resume.

General

- A. As of today, Friday, June 12, the only jurisdiction currently not aligned with the most recent progression of the State’s Stage 2 is Baltimore City. The mayor announced today that they would have further announcements on Wed. June 17.

B. State Licensed Child Care Services

For locations which were operating State Licensed Child Care Services prior to the forced closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Hogan on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, announced child care providers may reopen and were longer required to qualify as an Emergency Personnel Child Care provider. Effective immediately, if your location is interested in reopening your licensed child care services, contact your licensing specialist and complete a *Child Care Verification of Reopening form* (available on the MSDE website by next week). As you contemplate this decision, please be certain to familiarize yourself with the numerous health department protocols listed on the MSDE website and class size restrictions which must be adhered to. Additionally, keep in mind, if your local jurisdiction is not moving in coordination with the State’s guidance, your local jurisdiction has the authority to further delay the timing of reopening licensed child care services. Please be sure to check on the status of your location jurisdiction.

Please review the **attached** Q&A pdf document and refer to additional re-opening guidelines available on the MSDE website <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/> If you have specific questions about the operations of your daycare facility at your location, please feel free to email Tom Alban at talban@archbalt.org.

- C. Please see the **attached** local CARES Act grant opportunities compiled by the Office of School and Parish Finance.

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.*