

Weekly COVID-19 Guidance:

**Masks and MD State of Emergency Status** –Maryland is [lifting its COVID-19 state of emergency](#) along with many of the remaining COVID-19 safety restrictions on July 1. Masks will continue to be required on all MTA and other U.S. public transit until September 13. Baltimore City officials also announced its mask mandate [will be lifted on July 1](#).

**Parish COVID-19 Safety Restrictions Beginning June 26 – 27, 2021**

- As this weekend approaches and the lifting of dispensation from the Sunday obligation to attend mass will go into effect, the Archdiocese of Baltimore and our parishes look to resume as many traditions and practices of our faith and our liturgical celebrations as possible. After careful considerations and focused discussions, parishes are advised to discontinue all COVID-19 protocols **except** for the following:

1. Offer hand sanitization stations in the church.
2. No invitation is to be extended to the congregation to join hands during the Our Father.
3. Include the invitation for the sign of peace and encourage congregants to practice this action as they are comfortable doing so (handshaking, waving or nodding, etc.).
4. All concelebrating priests, as well as deacons assisting at the Mass, may continue to receive Communion at the usual time and in the usual manner. However, each must continue to use a **separate chalice** from the main celebrant or receive by intinction.
5. The priest and communion ministers must clean hands (e.g., with hand sanitizer) immediately before distributing Holy Communion.
6. The priest and communion ministers must continue hand sanitization during the distribution of communion on the tongue. This includes the placement of a nearby table for the availability of the supplies needed to conduct sanitization.
7. Communion must continue to be provided under a single form.
8. Masking shall continue to **adhere to local government directives** and orders. For those locations where no specific government directive order is in place, masking shall be respected and an

environment of acceptance for those who elect to mask shall be encouraged and fostered.

9. Maintain sanitization and cleaning of the church in accordance with the most current [CDC](#) guidance.
10. Continue to provide notifications to congregants when a confirmed positive case is identified and the individual recently attended a parish service or activity.
11. Clergy are encouraged to use their own judgment when ministering to those individuals with an active COVID-19 positive diagnosis. Such judgments include determining if the clergy will provide ministry in person, wear personal protection equipment and administer oils directly with one's hand or using aids such as cotton balls or swabs.