

COVID-19 Weekly Guidance for August 5, 2021

Baltimore City government and its department of health announced today the [resumption of masking requirements](#) effective 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 9, 2021.

Due to this new requirement, beginning on August 9, all parishes residing within **BALTIMORE CITY** must require all religious, staff, Mass attendees, visitors and all entering the indoor spaces on parish campuses or offices to wear a face covering/mask. At this time, there is NO social distancing protocol or requirement.

While the actual order has not been released, the Archdiocese is providing prompt notice to all of our locations as to the pending change. Please find below guidance based on the previous mask mandate in the city. Please allow this notice to serve as a reminder of *likely* key considerations:

- The order will most likely apply to all individuals 2 years and older
- The order will likely apply to all of the following venues: in or on any public transportation; indoors at any location where members of the public are generally permitted, including without limitation, **religious facilities**, retail establishments, foodservice establishments, fitness centers, gaming facilities, the indoor portions of racing facilities, indoor recreation establishments, personal services establishments, indoor theaters, any outdoor sporting venue or outdoor entertainment venue; outdoors at any location other than an outdoor sporting venue or outdoor entertainment; while obtaining healthcare services, including without limitation, in offices of physicians and dentists, hospitals, pharmacies, and laboratories.
- Of particular note the order will also likely specify that masks will be required while working indoors in any areas “while engaged in work where (i). interaction with others is likely, including without limitation, in shared areas of commercial offices; or food is prepared or packaged”

Exceptions where face coverings are not required will *likely* include the following:

- If, due to a bona fide disability or medical condition, it would be unsafe for the person to wear a mask
- To the extent wearing a face covering would impede communication by or with persons who have a hearing impairment or other disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication
- If wearing a face covering would subject the person to an unsafe working condition, as determined by federal, state, or local occupational safety regulators or workplace safety guidelines
- To the extent wearing a face covering would make it impossible to receive services requiring access to the face, mouth, or head, including without limitation, dental care, shaving, and facial treatments
- While consuming food or beverages
- While swimming or engaging in other physical activities where the use of a face covering is likely to pose a bona fide safety risk; or while operating any public transportation conveyance, provided that the person is (i) the sole operator of the conveyance, and (ii) located in a separate compartment that is off-limits to riders