

Archdiocese of Baltimore  
Guidelines for Responding to the COVID-19 Virus  
**May 15, 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](http://www.archbalt.org/coronavirus).

**General**

- A. Pastors are asked to notify their Regional Vicar by Wednesday, May 20 via email of the status of their re-opening plans. This will allow us to assist any pastors to address various obstacles and challenges they may be facing.
  
- B. Phase I of the AOB reopening plan begins to be implemented today at 5pm, regardless of location. This does not mean every parish must immediately resume the activities in Phase I, only that they are permitted to do so. Should you have concerns about the readiness of your facility or staff, it is better to wait to resume the activities in Phase I when it is safe to do so. As always, effective and timely communication with your parishioners is key. Let them know the “what” and the “why” before they come to church. The Guidelines we have provided can be referenced when communicating with parishioners, as they make clear that parishes are advised not to proceed with “reopening” until it is safe to do so.
  
- C. Phase II is scheduled for May 30-31. However, this is subject to change if Governor Hogan reinstates the stay-at-home order due to a sudden increase in cases. If there were to be a spike, it would typically come two weeks after a relaxation of restrictions.

**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](mailto: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.*