

Archdiocese of Baltimore
Guidelines for Responding to the COVID-19 Virus
May 18, 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.

General

- A. As noted in recent guidance, when parishes open for Phase II (if allowed by local jurisdictions) attendance should not exceed 1/3 of their building’s seating capacity. However, please note that once social-distancing measurements are in place, the actual number of people that can be accommodated in the building will likely be lower than the one-third limit.
- B. At the discretion of the pastors, First Communions and Easter Sacraments of Initiation may proceed after Masses resume during Phase II, while continuing to ensure limitations on attendance. It is not necessary to proceed with the sacraments until parishes feel they are adequately prepared to do so. A further guidance document will be issued for Phase II that will include specific guidelines regarding holding the sacraments.
- C. Guidance will be forthcoming on holding Confirmations.
- D. If parishes are having difficulty securing needed supplies for reopening, please send a list of needed items to riskmanagement@archbalt.org. This will assist us in ascertaining continued procurement needs that we can attempt to address.

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.*