



ARCHDIOCESE of BALTIMORE

WEEKLY COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Baltimore City Mask Mandate - On March 1, 2022, the existing indoor mask mandate in Baltimore City will be lifted. Parishes within the city will no longer have to require masking in church buildings or during Mass.

Parental Choice in Schools - Department of Catholic Schools will transition all archdiocesan schools located in Baltimore City to optional masking on March 1, 2022. For students, this option will be based on parental choice. Face masks will continue to be required for all individuals while on public transportation conveyances, including public and private school buses and vans.

Forced or Required Masking During Mass - Unless the parish's local jurisdiction has a mask mandate in place, parishioners are not required to mask in order to attend mass. If local conditions worsen, such as high case rates and high transmissibility, a parish can suggest wearing a mask, but in the absence of a governmental mandate, masking is not mandated for attending mass.

Important Reminders:

1. During this transition and under the idea of offering spaces to all Mass-goers, you may want to consider a mask-required section of seating, that may make mask-wearers feel more comfortable attending.
2. For those churches that are live-streaming Mass, please remember to welcome your online viewers verbally during the celebration and also encourage them to return to in-person Mass and celebration (if they are able).
3. With regard to other activities on the parish campus, excluding masses and sacramental gatherings, it is within the pastor's discretion to establish or maintain COVID-19 protocols including masking, even in the absence of a local mandate. When parish-required protocols that are more restrictive than those required by the local order are in place, clear communications should be sent out to parishioners advising them of these requirements at regular intervals.

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