



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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Memorandum

To: All Parishes
From: Archbishop Richard Gagnon
Date: October 13, 2020
Re: COVID-19 Clarifications

+ R. G.

Please be advised of the following clarifications on COVID-19 protocols developed in coordination with the Archdiocese of St. Boniface and the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg, and with updated information from the official provincial government liaison to communities of faith.

Use of Masks

In the Winnipeg Metropolitan health region under “Orange” restrictions, wearing a mask is required for all religious and public gatherings. In parishes outside this region, use of masks remains strongly recommended.

Wearing of masks is not required for (1) children under five, (2) persons with a medical condition unrelated to COVID-19 (e.g. asthma, allergies) and (3) persons with a disability and/or movement impediments preventing them from removing a mask without the help of another person. Members of the assembly covered herein are asked to inform Ministers of Hospitality of their condition.

“Faith Gatherings”

The definition of a “Faith Gathering” has been expanded to include other religious gatherings. Besides the Celebration of Mass, the following gatherings can accommodate up to 30% of building capacity:

- Eucharistic Adoration
- Recitation of the Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- *Lectio Divina*
- Catechism
- R.C.I.A.
- Faith Formation sessions

As before, weddings, funerals and baptisms are considered “public gatherings” and, under Code Orange, are presently limited to ten (10) people in the Winnipeg Metropolitan health region and 50 people indoors (and 100 people outdoors) in all other locations.