



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Parishes

From: Archbishop Richard Gagnon *+ R. G.*

Date: January 7, 2022

Re: Extension to Public Health Orders

Today, the Provincial Government announced that they will be extending the current provincial health orders until February 1, 2022.

The current provincial health orders are as follows: faith-based gatherings, such as the Celebration of Mass, which include persons who are unvaccinated, are restricted to twenty-five (25) people or 25% of the capacity of the space, whichever is lower. The presider, one (1) cantor, one (1) accompanist, one (1) lector, and the live-streaming team, do not count toward the restrictions.

The above limit may be increased by implementing a cohort system. Fully separated parts of the church building (e.g., worship space and parish hall) may be used for distinct groupings of twenty-five (25) people, provided each grouping has its own entrance and exit and there is no interaction between groupings during the gathering. Obviously, a given church's architecture would dictate whether this option is a possibility for the parish.

I wish to add that I appreciate all the efforts being made to be in unity throughout the Archdiocese. The Omicron Variant has introduced some additional dynamics to the pandemic and how we are responding to it. Please be assured that our discernment of how best to respond is continuing.

Further announcements will be made according to developments from our local health officials and the Archdioceses.

Thank you very much.