



# Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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## MEMORANDUM

To: All Parishes

From: Archbishop Richard Gagnon + R A

Date: February 4, 2022

Re: Changes to Public Health Orders

On Wednesday, February 1, 2022, the Provincial Government announced changes to Public Health Orders throughout Manitoba. The bishops of Manitoba have determined that effective Tuesday, February 8, 2022, our parishes will follow the order that allows for faith-based gatherings, including Mass, permitted for up to 25% of a church's capacity or two hundred and fifty (250) people, whichever is lower. For outdoor faith-based gatherings, the maximum is 50% of the capacity of the place. The presider, one (1) cantor, one (1) accompanist, one (1) lector, and the live-streaming team, do not count toward the restrictions. Gatherings while in a motor vehicle (drive-in celebrations) remain permitted without limitation.

There has been no change to the celebrations of Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms. The restrictions are as follows: a maximum of twenty-five (25) attendees or 25% of the capacity of the building, 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. In addition, in the case of weddings, one (1) photographer or videographer does not count toward the restrictions; and in the case of funerals, the funeral home staff do not count toward the restrictions.

If a family requests to *extend* a wedding, funeral or baptism to a number that exceeds the regular participation limitations, up to 50% of the capacity of the space or two hundred and fifty (250) people whichever is lower, by restricting attendance only to those *fully vaccinated*, this may be arranged in consultation with the parish pastoral leadership. In these cases, the family must take responsibility to manage the implementation of the most recent public health orders pertaining to verification of proof of vaccination.

We are continuing to reach out to our Chief Provincial Public Health Officer to advise him of the unique situation of our churches and to request greater flexibility for our congregations like what we're seeing in other provinces across Canada. As usual, further announcements will be made should additional information be provided by public health officials.

Thank you very much.