



3 September 2021

The government has introduced temporary measures in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic that will take effect on Saturday, September 4, 2021 at 8:00 am.

These temporary measures are being introduced by the government to prevent further spikes in confirmed cases. The two measures that affect the parishes and the Archdiocese are the measures on masking and social gatherings. The bullets under these headings that are in bold are the official wording from the Government of Alberta on the temporary measures.

Masking

- **Masks are mandatory in all indoor public spaces and workplaces.**
 - Mask use is not required if
 - **The individual is under 2 years of age**
 - **The individual qualifies for a medical exception.**
- **Employees must mask in all indoor work settings, except in work stations.**
- **Schools are not required to implement masking, but school boards will continue to set COVID-19 management policies, as they deem appropriate.**

Mass

- The use of masks is required in all public facilities of the parishes and Archdiocesan facilities.
 - Exceptions cited by the government will be followed.
 - Priests, deacons, and lectors must always wear the mask unless speaking and proclaiming.
 - Altar servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, the cantor, and instrumentalists/musicians must wear masks at all times.
- Congregational singing is suspended at this time.
 - Only one (1) cantor/soloist is allowed.
 - The cantor/soloist must wear the mask while singing/chanting and must be located away from the congregation and the instrumentalists/musicians.
 - The use of the mask is required when singing/chanting since this activity tends to project more spray/mist of respiratory droplets or aerosol.
 - Singing by the cantor/soloist will be limited to the following
 - Entrance antiphon or unfamiliar hymn
 - Preparation of the altar

- Communion
- Recessional
 - Instrumental music may replace singing.
- The offertory procession will not resume at this time to avoid unnecessary contact with the vessels. Its resumption will be decided by the end of October 2021.

Distribution of Holy Communion

- Priests/deacons/extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion must wear the mask during the distribution of Holy Communion. Hands must be sanitized prior to the distribution.
- Mask use is mandatory for all the faithful. Parishioners who are not able to wear a mask for medical reasons can be exempt from this regulation except when receiving Holy Communion. All parishioners must wear masks when lining up for the distribution of Holy Communion, including those receiving Communion on the tongue or a “blessing.”
- The communicant removes the mask in front of the priest/deacon/Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to receive Communion and must put it back on after consuming the consecrated host.
 - Communion is only given under one species – the consecrated host.
 - Communion of the tongue continues to be available.
 - If the Ordinary/Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion comes in contact with the Communicant in the distribution, please sanitize hands with a quick-drying, alcohol-based hand sanitizer before continuing to distribute Holy Communion.
 - The Precious Blood will only be available to the celebrant and concelebrants.
 - Concelebrants should receive by self-intinction from a separate chalice if there are more than one.
 - For a single concelebrant, he may partake of the precious blood by drinking from the separate chalice and purifying it himself.

Parish Offices

- Masks are mandatory in all indoor workplaces, except when working alone in an office or a safely distanced cubicle or an appropriate barrier is in place.
- This applies to all employees, visitors, delivery personnel and contractors.
- Working from home should be considered, where possible, when it does not hinder the normal operations of the parish.

Social Gatherings

- **Albertans are encouraged to limit in-person contacts.**
- **Unvaccinated Albertans are strongly recommended to limit indoor social gatherings to close contacts of only 2 cohort families up to a maximum of 10 people.**

The Use of the Parish Hall

- In-person meetings and faith-based meetings, which are not social gatherings, are allowed to continue without restriction on the number of attendees, i.e. council meetings, RCIA, support groups, etc.
 - Masks must be worn at all times.

Reminder

- Post the mandatory masks provided by the government.
- Continue to promote proper hand hygiene by having hand washing/sanitizing posters visible and placing hand sanitizer stations in convenient and accessible locations.
- Make every effort to encourage respiratory etiquette (e.g., coughing or sneezing into a bent elbow, promptly disposing of used tissues in a lined garbage bin).
- Parishes that have livestreaming capabilities are encouraged to continue with livestreaming Masses for those who are not comfortable with returning to Mass in person.