

Archdiocesan COVID 19 Sub-Committee Update of August 9, 2021

As of August 10, 2021, as part of the Re-Opening Plan, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has made it optional, but recommended, that face masks be worn in indoor public spaces. While allowing for indoor gatherings of up to 500 people, physical distancing of 2m/6ft is still required.

With the above in mind, the Archdiocesan COVID 19 Sub-Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. While the wearing of masks is no longer mandatory, in keeping with the guidance from Public Health, we recommend and encourage the continued wearing of face masks during liturgical worship, etc.
2. Hand sanitizing and physical distancing of 2m/6ft must be maintained in our Churches. The number of people permitted to attend liturgy remains determined by the number of people who can safely be in the church while maintaining this physical distancing requirement. This means that there is no change to the maximum number of people permitted at worship in our parish churches.
3. Contact tracing is now optional. However, parishes may wish to continue pre-registration for attendance at liturgies because it will help them regulate the number of people who can safely be in their buildings.
4. Ushers need not direct people to their seats anymore, but they are still needed to oversee proper social distancing and the maximum number of people to be admitted to liturgies.
5. Rules are unchanged around the distribution of Holy Communion. The presider should still be masked during the distribution of communion for his own safety as well as the safety of the communicants. The hand sanitizing regime for the reception of Holy Communion remains in effect, as does the use of the single attestation.