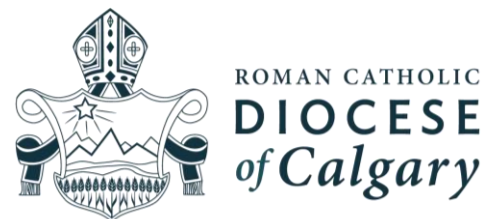


MEMORANDUM



DATE Wednesday, June 10, 2020

TO Parishes

FROM The Office of the Bishop

SUBJECT Maximum number of attendees in light of Stage 2 of Alberta's Relaunch Strategy effective Friday, June 12, 2020

As announced by Premier Jason Kenny, the Province of Alberta will be entering Stage 2 of the Relaunch Strategy on Friday, June 12, 2020 which will mean an increase in attendance limits for liturgical celebrations in our churches.

The pandemic is still with us and existing health and safety requirements remain in place. Therefore, the increase in the attendance limit will not mean an immediate return to full churches.

Parishes will still have to meet the requirements outlined in the *Guidelines for the Reintroduction of the Public Celebration of Holy Mass* which is currently in place. These include:

- Ensuring physical distancing of two metres between people who are not of the same household
- Asking attendees to answer a series of health and travel-related questions as recommended by Alberta Health Services
- Collecting contact information of attendees if they would wish to participate voluntarily for the purpose of contact tracing
 - Parishes will have full ownership of their attendance lists
 - Records should only be kept for 2 weeks then destroyed
 - Parishes will only be asked to share attendance lists with Alberta Health Services if a potential exposure occurs onsite
- Sanitizing hands upon entry and exit
- Requiring masks for all volunteers and all those who wish to receive Holy Communion
 - Congregants may decide whether to wear a mask during Mass provided that mask is worn if they wish to receive Holy Communion
- Cleaning and disinfecting of the church between Masses.

The current diocesan guidelines will be updated as Stage 2 of Alberta's Relaunch Strategy unfolds. As this is underway, the following updates are intended to focus on keeping everyone safe while implementing the following attendance limit changes, effective, Friday, June 12, 2020.

Sunday and Weekday Mass Attendance

- While Stage 2 of the Relaunch Strategy places no cap on the number of people for worship gatherings, each parish will need to determine the maximum number they can accommodate while observing physical distancing protocols.
- Once the maximum number is determined, remember to change the maximum limit in the registration system that your parish is using so that more parishioners are potentially able to register for Mass.
- For some churches, this means roping off every other pew or every third pew depending on the spacing of pews.
- Physical distancing includes all directions between congregants.

Funeral Masses

- The total maximum attendance allowed for the congregation including clergy and anyone else involved in the celebration of Mass is no more than 100, or fewer if required for proper physical distancing. This has been mandated by the Province.

Weddings

- The total maximum attendance allowed for the congregation including clergy and anyone else involved in the celebration of Mass is no more than 100, or fewer if required for proper physical distancing. This has been mandated by the Province.

Baptisms

- The total maximum attendance allowed for the congregation including clergy and anyone else involved in the celebration is no more than 50, or fewer if required for proper physical distancing.
- With the movements involved in the celebration of baptism, the Diocese has decided that the maximum number allowed for baptisms follows the provincial guideline for indoor social gatherings.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

- The total maximum attendance allowed in the church nave for the congregation including clergy and anyone else involved in the liturgy is no more than 100, or fewer if required for proper physical distancing.
- Adoration chapels are not to be used for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. For churches that have the tabernacle located in a chapel, please see below.

Access to Churches

- Parishes are asked to keep the churches open during the day so that individuals may visit and pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. However, groups are not allowed to assemble in churches. The number of people present in the church without any liturgical gathering is limited to no more than 50 people at a time, or fewer if required for proper physical distancing.
- For churches that have the tabernacle located in a chapel, personal visits are allowed; but Exposition may only be held in the nave of the church. Parishes need to determine the maximum number of people allowed at a time in their chapel to ensure proper physical distancing.



PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Seating at Mass

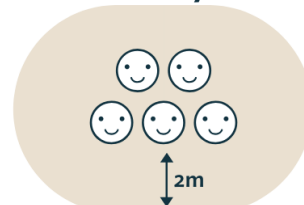
Keep 2m / 6 ft distance between you and others, unless you are from the same household or between cohort families

If you are too close to someone who coughs or sneezes, you risk breathing in tiny droplets that could contain the COVID-19 virus.

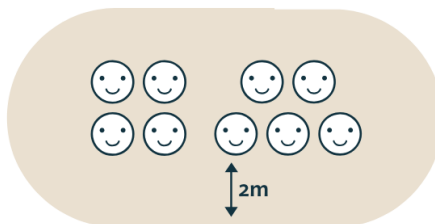
Individual



Family



Cohort Families



Wear a Mask

Wear a mask when you are not able to maintain proper physical distance

Wearing a mask helps protect others. If everyone is wearing a mask, we all protect each other. It's the right thing to do. #ActofCharity.



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CONTACT TRACING



You can provide your contact information voluntarily for the purpose of contact tracing

What happens to my information?



Parishes will have full ownership of their attendance lists



Records should only be kept for two weeks then destroyed



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