



UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR REOPENING OF MASSES

June 5, 2020

Background

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the Archdiocese has sought to have its parishes move together toward the goal of reopening Masses for the faithful. With Governor Brown's announcement of Phase II reopening of Oregon, we will begin to diverge. She announced on June 3, 2020, that those counties meeting the requirements for controlling COVID-19 could apply to move into Phase II as early as this weekend. This means that some parishes will be able to open Masses to more people while others will need to wait till their county is approved. The latest information on which counties have been approved can be found here: <https://govstatus.egov.com/reopening-oregon>. The Governor advised that she expected Phase II to continue throughout the summer and into the fall. General Phase II guidance can be found [HERE](#). The Phase II guidance for faith-based gatherings can be accessed [HERE](#).

The new guidelines in counties approved for Phase II are as follows:

- Churches can accept up to 250 people if sanitation measures continue and the space permits sufficient physical distancing. That means a 36 square foot space for each person in attendance (6 feet x 6 feet). If a parish has satellite locations, these can also hold up to 250 people if the other requirements are met.
- Sign-ups (electronic or telephonic) will continue to be **required** for the primary purpose of ensuring that the number of persons wishing to attend Mass does not exceed the number permitted for the available space. In the event of a COVID-19 exposure at a Mass, the sign-up information will be used for the secondary purpose of contact tracing, in cooperation with Oregon health authorities. The ability to do tracing is a fundamental component of demonstrated readiness to reopen. The new guidance states that sign-up information may be destroyed **60 days** after the event.
- Masks and face coverings continue to be **required** for ministers distributing Holy Communion.
- Signs should be posted warning persons with symptoms of illness not to enter parish buildings and to return home immediately.
- Remote work is still encouraged but not required. Please follow instructions from **Human Resources** regarding the reopening of parish offices and other worksites. These are being sent in a separate mailing.

This updated guidance should be read and implemented in conjunction with the memoranda on **Limited Reopening of Masses** (issued May 4, 2020 and updated May 8, 2020) and **Use of Satellite Sites for Mass** (issued May 27, 2020). **Unless otherwise specified, the existing procedures remain in place.**

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains dispensed.

Please contact Sister Veronica Schueler, F.S.E., at vschueler@archdpdx.org or Reverend Todd Molinari at tmolinari@archdpdx.org with any questions.