



HR Update - 14 May 2021

Reverend Fathers and Colleagues in Christ,

We have received a number of questions related to Covid 19. As these questions have come in from multiple parishes we wanted to share the guidance with everyone.

15 person limit – including babies

The current mass restriction for “15 in-person attendees maximum” was confirmed with AHS to include every participant. A baby, infant or toddler are all counted in the total. One way to look at this is that even a little breath is still a breath for a potential respiratory virus.

Mouth shield / mouth guards

We received a number of comments about the use of mouth shields or mouth guards that are being used as masks. An example picture is included below. While there are a number of designs these shields are often sold as masks but they do not meet mask requirements for AHS.

(<https://www.alberta.ca/masks.aspx>) A non medical mask should have the nose and mouth fully covered. (<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid19-types-of-masks-eye-protection.pdf>)

We support the safety of everyone in our community by following our liturgical guidelines based on AHS requirements. We are seeing signs of the end of this pandemic but need to remain vigilant. Please speak to your staff, volunteers and safety coordinator to ensure we are showing leadership in our communities by wearing proper masks. We also support our parishioners with gentle reminders and proper masks to use if they arrive for mass wearing one of these open mouth shields. We do not allow for medical exemptions to masks as we have virtual Mass available for everyone.

If you have questions around the mandatory mask use for activities such as the celebration of Mass, weddings, funerals or baptism please reach out and we will do our best to help answer these for you.

Senior Care Center – Resuming Mass

We are receiving requests for senior care centers to start Mass again. There will be challenges to the 15 person limit with more participants interested than the present limit allows. Those residents with attendants will further limit attendance numbers. How it is decided when residents are turned away may cause greater stress for them. With the requirement of mandatory masks you may encounter challenges with this as well.

The invitation from care homes for the resumption of mass can be re-evaluated after the current restrictions are removed and it is safer for everyone involved. Note that these restrictions are temporary. We are hopeful that these may be in place for only a brief time.

Communion ministry to shut ins

We have not had any changes to at-home communion ministry other than tighter overall restrictions for the next few weeks. Like mass at senior care homes we will maintain a pause on this ministry until this is safer to do so.

The dispensation from mass continues and we have a number of options available to participate in live-streamed mass.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Patrick Snoek – Human Resources Lead or Rev. Paul Kavanagh Senior Lead Mission Leadership .

God Bless,

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