



MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL PASTORS, PRIESTS, PRINCIPALS, PARISHES, SCHOOLS, DEACONS DEPARTMENTS AND KEY STAFF MEMBERS.

FROM: DEACON HUGO PATINO, CHANCELLOR

DATE: November 17, 2020

RE: ALL DIOCESAN COUNTIES IN THE PURPLE TIER

Yesterday, the California Department of Public Health adjusted the tier assignment for each county in California. The reason for this change is because of a dramatic spike in COVID-19 cases and positive tests throughout California.

All of the counties in the Diocese of Monterey are now in the purple (or most restrictive) tier. For now, this means that parishes are limited to outdoor services only. The number of people each parish may have at a Mass, funeral or wedding is capped by the space available to ensure six feet of distance between each household. This is today, November 17, 2020 (attached are the guidelines on outdoor services).

If your parish office is open, please close it and ask that your employees work remotely to the extent possible.

Superintendent, Kimberly Cheng, will communicate with the principals as to how this will affect the schools.

Also, yesterday, the California Department of Public Health updated its face mask requirements. Under the revised guidelines, everyone must wear a mask except in the following situations:

1. Driving alone in a car (or with only household members)
2. Alone in a room such as an office
3. Outside with at least 6 feet of distance from others (however, everyone must have a face mask with them in case they come within 6 feet of another, non-household member.

A few reminders:

1. If a member of the clergy, employee or volunteer tests positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19, please contact Susan Mayer so that we may comply with any legal reporting requirements.
2. Please see the matrix attached to this email for activities that are permitted in the purple tier.

3. If anyone associated with the parish or school travels by airplane, train or bus between last Friday and December 31, 2020, he/she will have to quarantine for 14 days upon his/her return from travel. Quarantining means staying away from all others including household members.

Please do your best to stop the spread of COVID-19 by staying home as much as possible and when you must go out, wear your face mask and keep your hands clean. Also, please follow California's guidance on private gatherings which are attached to this email.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Susan Mayer (smayer@dioceseofmonterey.org) or me. hpatino@dioceseofmonterey.org