



DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

To: Missionary Pastors, Pastors Administrators, Operations Team

Re: Indiana's Public Directives issued November 13, 2020

Date: November 19, 2020

Last week, the state of Indiana released new directives to continue to fight the spread of the coronavirus. The diocese is cooperating with these official directives in an effort to protect community health, and so as not to overwhelm already stressed healthcare workers. Our continued efforts are about more than just how we worship, but how we fit in with our neighbors' needs.

Executive Order 20-48 issued November 13, 2020, reaffirms the importance of wearing face coverings, social distancing, and cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Due to a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases, the Executive Order contains an increase of restrictions regarding social gatherings and events based on a county color-coded metric state map. Parishes throughout the diocese could be at varying levels of restrictions and mandates. It is the responsibility of each parish to continue to monitor and follow the all federal, state and local guidelines. The Executive Order could be modified, rescinded or extended and, if necessary, any updates from the diocese will follow. Below are areas of clarification due to the Executive Order 20-48.

Worship:

No. 7.a of the Executive Order specifies restrictions for gatherings or events pertaining to religious services and places of worship. No 7.a.ii states:

"Live or in-person religious services, including wedding ceremonies and funeral services are not subject to limits on social gatherings as set forth in this Executive Order. However, social distancing and other sanitation measures apply, meaning individuals or households must be spaced at least six feet apart from any other individual or household. The wearing of face coverings is also strongly encouraged. Wedding receptions and visitations before or after funerals remain subject to the limitations and restrictions for social gatherings as set forth in the Executive Order."

Parishes within the diocese are to continue to follow all "Return to Worship-Phase D" directives including encouraging the use of masks during liturgies, and adhering to social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Parishes are to re-evaluate worship space logistics plans to adhere to the required minimum of six feet social distancing between households. This order may require adjustments to receptions, including wedding receptions, and funeral visitations. Parishes are to adhere to the social gathering and event limitations for receptions and visitations set by the Executive Order based on where the parish falls on the color-coded county metrics state map.

For questions or concerns related to this section, please contact Sandra Santucci: ssantucci@dol-in.org



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Other Parish Ministries:

Nos. 7 and 8 of the Executive Order clarify the restrictions on social gatherings and events. Parish activities are subject to the limitations and restrictions of this executive order. This order may require adjustments to religious education, youth ministry, RCIA, retreats, bible studies, sacramental preparation, etc. Parish ministries are to continue to encourage parishioners to wear masks, maintain a minimum of six feet of social distancing between households at all times, and parish plans must account for all logistics and supplies for ministry activities. Parishes are to adhere to the social gathering and event limitations set by the Executive Order based on where the parish falls on the color-coded county metrics state map.

For questions or concerns related to this section, please contact Father Ted Dudzinski: frted@dol-in.org or Jeanne Lausten: jlausten@dol-in.org

Schools:

No. 8 of the Executive Order lists the general requirements for k-12 educational institutions. Catholic Schools are to follow Diocesan Catholic Schools guidelines. In summary, students in grades 3-12, faculty, staff, volunteers, etc. must continue to wear masks in any school buildings, facility, grounds, buses and school-sponsored transportation at all times. Exemptions to this requirement as indicated in no 8.c., include actively consuming food or drink, in faculty/staff areas where six feet of social distancing can be maintained, children between the ages of two and eight, recess- provided social distancing can be maintained, students and teachers engaging in strenuous physical activity, and specific classroom settings as addressed in no. 8.iv. Children under the age of two should not wear masks.

For questions or concerns related to this section, please contact Peg Dispenzieri: pdispenzieri@dol-in.org

Workplaces:

The Executive Order, no. 4.e offers guidance for businesses and employers. The Executive Order currently does not affect our diocesan "Return to Work" directives. It does re-emphasize particular diocesan directives such as requiring masks and social distancing for all employees and visitors, allowing flexibility regarding work schedules, continuing COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting protocols for workspaces, and individual employee hygiene and self-monitoring and reporting. Employees working in individual/private offices in which six feet of social distancing can be achieved while inside their office are not required to wear masks.



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As a reminder, each parish is to continue to adhere to federal, state and local guidelines, therefore, depending on the county or town mandates, individual parishes might need to make suitable modifications to their individual parish and/or school plans.

For questions or concerns related to this section, please contact Jeanne Lausten: jlausten@dol-in.org