



ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF FRESNO
RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY OFFICE
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INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Pastors/Parish Administrators- FRESNO & INYO COUNTIES- ONLY
From: Denise McKenzie/ Risk Manager
Date: SEPTEMBER 30/2020
Re: COVID-19 FRESNO and INYO COUNTIES APPROVES INSIDE MASS GATHERING-INCLUDING PLACES OF WORSHIP

- September 29/2020 the Fresno and Inyo County Department of Health announced in a NEWS RELEASE that those counties have now moved into a “**RED**” tier- indicating substantial but not widespread COVID-19 transmission within these counties.
- **All churches within “Fresno and Inyo Counties” can open this weekend (October 3, 2020) for INSIDE CHURCH MASSES. The total limit for inside gatherings (Sacraments) is 100 persons -maximum- or 25% of the square footage whichever is less.** The same social distancing requirements of 6-feet, wearing of face covering or masks are required- NO EXCEPTIONS. This is the same limit for inside Masses/gatherings when we opened in June/2020. There is no need to re-measure the church and no need to resubmit any plans to us here at the diocese.

I am trying to get this message out to you as soon as we are informed of changes so you can get ready and make proper arrangements.

- Please check to make sure you have a proper amount of cleaning supplies, face masks, social distance markings throughout the church to help with traffic flow in and out and for the communion line.

- Please have the church cleaned. Hand sanitizer stations at various locations at entry/exit and communion line. Please make sure you have enough staff and volunteers on hand for each mass. Check to make sure social distance markings are clear and recognizable for the communion line/entry exit of the church, etc. Make sure your proper church postings are on the church door about possible COVID-19 exposure.
- Reservations are highly recommended to make sure we adhere to the maximum capacity guidelines. If a breakout occurs of COVID-19 at any church location call the Risk Management Department if you have any questions (559) 488-7473 or (559) 488-7471.
- **Singing is not allowed for inside Masses at this time. If and when singing is approved, we will let you know.**
- Adult gatherings up to 10 people are allowed with masks and proper distancing. Gatherings for minors are not allowed yet; information for meeting in-person with children and youth will be released next week.
- Essential employees are now allowed back at all churches, per last week's memo. Please be careful with proper social distancing of all employees, yourself and volunteers. Masks are always required while at the church office. The only time masks can be removed is when you are working at your desk. Please be respectful of others and wear your mask when speaking to others.
- Please only see parishioners by appointment this will help the office staff maintain proper social distancing, be prepared for what the parishioner needs and maintain cleaning of the used area after each appointment. Please have your appointments in a meeting room or separate area away from the employee's work areas, if possible. Always clean open surfaces and commonly used areas after each appointment.
- To review the detailed Parish Reopening Guidelines go to our website: www.dioceseoffresno.org located under the COVID-19 Resources tab.

Please call my office with any questions/concerns. Good Luck! We have all worked very hard to return to inside Mass gatherings, your cooperation to safety will continue keeping the COVID numbers down and hopefully we will not have to close again.

GOD BLESS YOU- BE CAREFULL- YOUR HEALTH IS TOP PRIORITY!

Respectfully,



Denise McKenzie