

COVID-19 Protocols for In-Person Ministry at Parishes

Face Masks. Employees, volunteers, adults, youth, and children (collectively, Individuals) are to wear face masks when participating in a Parish activity, program, or event (Parish Activity) unless a medical condition prevents it, or the Individual is under 10 years of age. Children over 2 are encouraged to wear a face mask).

Disinfecting. Parishes will clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched in common before and after a room or other space is used for a Parish Activity. Individuals participating in the Parish Activity are to assist when requested.

Hand Sanitizers. The Parish will provide hand sanitizer stations at convenient locations in the Parish campus and will seek to have hand sanitizers in or near a room while in use for a Parish Activity. The Parish encourages Individuals to wash hands frequently and carry personal hand sanitizers.

Signs. The Parish will post signs about wearing face coverings, washing hands, disinfecting, staying home when sick, and other COVID-19 prevention recommendations. Individuals participating in Parish Activities are to follow the recommendations on the signs.

Social Distancing. Individuals participating in Parish Activities are to practice social distancing and stay 6 feet apart whenever possible.

Field Trips. The Parish will not coordinate field trips off campus except for walking trips where distancing can be maintained or when Individuals are able to arrange their own transportation.

Informing Parish of Having Contracted COVID-19. An Individual who receives confirmation of having contracted COVID-19 and who has participated in a Parish Activity in the prior 14 days is to inform the Parish of the condition. The Parish will consult with diocesan officials on the appropriate announcements and communications to others, if any, respecting the privacy of the Individual.

Self-Screening. Individuals are to self-screen for themselves and for their children (under 18) for COVID-19 symptoms before participating in Parish Activities. A COVID-19 symptom means a fever over 100 or more than the occasional: cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, headache, chills, sore throat, shaking or shivering, muscle ache or pain, diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell.

When Not to Participate. An Individual is not to participate in a Parish Activity if:

- (1) the Individual has contracted COVID-19 and the Individual is not to return to the Parish campus until at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without medication), the Individual does not experience other COVID-19 symptoms, and at least 10 days have passed since the date symptoms first appeared;
- (2) the Individual had “close contact” (within 6 feet for 15 minutes) in the prior 14 days with someone who has contracted COVID-19 and the Individual is not return to the Parish campus until the individual has not experienced a COVID-19 symptom for at least 14 days after the date of close contact; or
- (3) the Individual is experiencing a COVID-19 symptom and the Individual is not return to the Parish campus until at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without medication, if applicable, and the Individual has not experienced other COVID-19 symptoms.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT RELATED TO
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR MINISTRY OUTSIDE OF MASS AND OTHER LITURGIES**

_____ Catholic Church (the Parish), has established protocols intended to reduce the potential for exposure to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on campus during in-person ministry. These protocols are attached to this form and may be updated from time to time. They are intended for ministry outside of the celebration of Mass and other liturgies, which have their own protocols previously sent to parishes and remaining in effect.

Even with these protocols in place, the Parish cannot guarantee that parishioners, employees, or visitors will avoid contraction of COVID-19. Participation in a Parish activity, program, or event (“Activities”) may increase the risk of contraction of COVID-19 and related illnesses. The Parish asks you to acknowledge the following to help ensure that these protocols are followed and that all will work to mitigate the risks.

- A. I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and that children, youth, adults, employees, and visitors may be exposed to or contract COVID-19 by attending, volunteering, visiting, or working at the Parish, or by attending or participating in Parish Activities. I am aware that exposure or contraction of COVID-19 may result in serious illness or personal injury. I recognize the risks related to COVID-19 and that my own actions or omissions may contribute to the risks or assist in mitigating the risks of COVID-19.
- B. **I will abide by and follow the Parish’s protocols related to COVID-19 for myself and for any person for whom I am responsible.**
- C. I understand that the Parish intends to enforce its COVID-19 protocols and may amend its protocols from time to time as it finds necessary and appropriate.
- D. I am informed that circumstances may require the Parish cancel or modify Parish Activities in order to mitigate the risks of COVID-19.
- E. To the extent permitted by law, I release and agree to hold harmless and indemnify the Parish and the Catholic Diocese of Austin, as well as their employees and representatives, from any claim or injury stemming from or related to my or my children’s attendance, visitation, volunteering, or working at the Parish or any Parish Activity related exposure to COVID-19.

Parishioner/Parent/Guardian Signature

Printed Name:_____

Date:_____

Parishioners/Parent/Guardian Signature

Printed Name:_____

Date:_____