

Archdiocesan COVID 19 Sub-committee Update of October 18, 2021 regarding:

Attendance at Worship/Liturgy Services

On October 7, 2021, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced new provincial requirements regarding proof of vaccination requirements that are to come into effect by October 22, 2021. The Archdiocesan Covid-19 Subcommittee has reviewed these requirements and the option available to faith-based organizations for faith-based gatherings. They have noted that even if proof of vaccination was required at faith-based gatherings, the present facemask and physical distancing requirements would still need to be observed.

With the above in mind and based on the recommendations of the Sub-committee, the Archdiocese of St. John's **will not** require people to verify proof of vaccination using the vaccine passport for worship services. Therefore, in accordance with public health measures as outlined at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/life-during-covid-19/vaccination-record/businesses-and-organizations/>, the following will apply to all Churches of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's:

WORSHIP/LITURGY SERVICES:

If faith-based organizations do not verify proof of vaccination for all attendees at faith-based gatherings, they will be subject to the following restrictions:

- Capacity is limited to 50 per cent;
- * Everyone must wear a non-medical mask at all times (including the officiant and musicians);
- Congregational singing is not permitted;
- The names and contact information of all attendees must be recorded and retained for 14 days for contact tracing, and must be shared with public health officials if requested;
- Physical distancing must be maintained between individuals from different family groups; and,
- Entry must be restricted to only those who do not have COVID-19 symptoms and who are not required to self-isolate for any reason.

Points of Further Clarification:

- * RE. the presider/musician wearing a face mask; the Sub-committee sought clarification from the government and was informed that the presider and cantor can remove their masks when speaking/singing
IF: - they are a minimum of 6ft/2m away from other people,
- they are the sole person using a given microphone
(i.e. these are practises already in use in our diocese and also apply to the lectors)
- All other musicians and choir members must remain masked.
- Contact tracing will again be mandatory which means names and phone numbers of those attending worship services must be recorded and the record kept for 14 days.

Throughout the pandemic, the Archdiocese of St. John's has sought to cooperate fully with Public Health in keeping people safe while providing for to the pastoral needs of its members. The Archdiocese will continue to be a cooperative and supportive partner with Public Health.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre and/or members of the Archdiocesan COVID-19 Subcommittee.