

Diocese of Saint John
Frequently Asked Questions regarding Faith Gatherings
Updated September 24, 2021

Is the Diocese of Saint John requiring proof of vaccination to attend Mass?

No, the Diocese of Saint John is not requiring proof of vaccination to attend Mass. This would include any Sacrament, Mass, Adoration, or “Prayer service”. The faithful, following the requirements of the province (masks, physical distancing, 50% capacity, and contact tracing) are to be welcomed to any act of “public worship”.

What restrictions are currently in place for Mass?

Effective September 23, the following restrictions will be in place for Masses in all parishes, which the province has mandated for congregations that do not require proof of vaccination for worship services (including Mass):

- Everyone masked at all times;
- Operate at 50% or less capacity;
- maintain two metres of physical distancing between different households;
- no congregational singing;
- record names of all attendees and contact information by row or have a consistent assigned seating plan for contact tracing; and
- prevent anyone displaying COVID-19 symptoms or who has been instructed to self-isolate from entering.

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/masks.html>

When is proof of vaccination being requested?

The *Public Health Act* is currently requiring mandatory vaccination for:

- Indoor festivals, performing arts and sporting events
- Indoor and outdoor dining and drinking at restaurants, pubs and bars
- Nightclubs, amusement centres, pool halls, bowling alleys and casinos
- Movie theatres
- Gyms, indoor group exercise, indoor pools and recreation facilities
- Indoor organized gatherings like weddings, funerals, parties (excluding parties in a private dwelling), conferences and workshops
- Indoor organized group recreational classes and activities
- Visiting a long-term care facility

Hall rentals, and parish activities that are not required for the practice of the faith (fundraisers, social gatherings, etc.) will require proof of vaccination/exemption to attend. Participants in events including weddings, funerals, parties, conferences, faith studies and workshops within churches are required to show proof of vaccination and remain masked for the duration of the event to attend in person.

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/nb-vaccine/Proof-of-Vaccination.html>
