



MEMORANDUM

1 page via e-mail plus 2 attachments

To: All Priests, All Parishes, Catholic Pastoral Centre & Satellite Office Staff
From: Neil MacCarthy, Director, Public Relations & Communications
Date: November 20, 2020
Re: Additional Points of Clarification for Parishes – New Provincial Restrictions

In anticipation of queries coming from communication today, I want to stress/clarify the following points:

- **All of these measures do not take effect until Monday, November 23, 2020.** They do not impact services this weekend. As of Monday, they are in place for 28 days but may be reviewed by the province before that time.
- **Public Masses are cancelled in Toronto and Peel Regions as of Monday.** Parishes, where possible and at the discretion of the Pastor, are encouraged to remain open for private prayer and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Both York and Durham Regions are now 30% capacity** - those in York Region will note that this is a significant change from earlier this week – direction had been to move to 50 people maximum and now we are asking you to return to 30% capacity. The goal throughout was to ensure consistency with regions in the same zone.

Earlier this week, with Toronto and Peel in the red zone, local medical officers in those areas made additional recommendations to reduce capacity to 50 people. Now that Toronto and Peel have moved to “Lockdown”, no additional recommendations have been made to this point in Durham or York. Thus we are following the provincial guideline of 30% capacity in the red zones at this time. If there are additional requests from the York or Durham medical officers of health, the direction will be reviewed. While we apologize for the confusion, we want to ensure we can maximize capacity wherever possible.

- For parishes in the “Lockdown” areas (Toronto/Peel) you may wish to refer to the sample announcement (attached) to communicate the new reality to your parishioners. Feel free to customize but the template may assist you. We have also included another attachment with signage that can be used to reflect the 10 person reality.

Thanks for your patience and continued co-operation. We will keep you updated as appropriate.