



DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA COVID GUIDELINES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 3, 2021

AT THE DIOCESAN OFFICE

The following protocols are mandated by Bishop Brewer and are in place effective 8/3/2021:

- Whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, all diocesan staff, vendors and visitors shall be masked when inside the building and in any space or office involving two or more persons. This shall include the board room, archive room, bishop's chapel, hallways and common areas. Diocesan staff working alone in their own office may be unmasked. Whenever a second person comes into a room, masks covering the nose and mouth must be worn. Masks may be removed temporarily when eating or drinking. An adequate supply of approved masks is provided on the table in the vestibule.
- If you have COVID-like symptoms (fever above 100.4 degrees, persistent cough, sneezing, or respiratory difficulty, or suspect that you may be COVID positive, please be tested for COVID exposure and work from home.
- Any person unwilling to wear a mask within the above protocols will not be permitted in the diocesan office.
- Diocesan staff persons who are exposed to a family member, or who are in close, sustained contact (15 minutes or longer) with someone who tests COVID-19 positive shall be quarantined at home for 14 days following the last day of the exposure to the COVID-19 positive person. For the safety of all, before returning to the diocesan office the diocesan staff person must show proof to Canon Holcombe of a negative COVID quick test taken within 72 hours of returning to work.

IN OUR CHURCHES

- **If desired, rectors/vicars/priests-in-charge may make the protocols for the local church more restrictive than the diocesan protocols.**
- While not mandating masks indoors at this time, **all persons are encouraged to wear masks (covering the nose and mouth) when indoors.** The risk of exposure exists for all people, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Social distancing is encouraged**, three feet distancing for vaccinated persons, six feet distancing when the vaccination status of others is unknown, or when in close contact with those not vaccinated.
- **Nursery workers, Sunday school teachers and those in direct contact with babies, toddlers or children under 12 must remain masked** (with their nose and mouth covered by the mask) while working with or around children or providing direct care.
- Hand sanitizer and disposable masks should be available at all main entry points to the church, parish hall or classrooms.
- Consider gathering outdoors in place of gathering indoor for worship and social activities.
- Many of our churches are suspending food service. Please discuss this option with clergy and vestry.

- If you are notified by a church member that they have tested positive for COVID-19 after they were in congregational worship, in the parish hall or other confined indoor spaces, you should:
 - a) Notify persons in attendance (by email, newsletter or phone calls) that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. Inform them that someone who was present in (church, the parish hall, etc.) on (a certain date) has tested positive and recommend that they get tested. Do not provide any information about the person who tested positive, where they were sitting, etc. for confidentiality reasons.
 - b) Thoroughly clean the areas with an approved household disinfectant.
 - c) The person cleaning the areas should wear a mask and gloves.
 - d) Notify Canon Scott Holcombe of the test results and seek additional guidelines.
 - e) If four or more persons test positive for COVID after visiting on a certain day or at a certain service, the local health department should be notified.

COMMUNION GUIDELINES

- The celebrant and those who will be serving communion must remain masked from the time the altar is prepared for communion at the offertory until the final ablutions are completed just before the prayer of thanksgiving.
- Those distributing communion must wear masks during the distribution of communion.
- Those involved with the preparation of the altar and the distribution of communion must be gloved with suitable disposable gloves.
- Communion may be received via pre-intincted wafers or plain hosts.
- The chalice may not be offered in any form to anyone other than the celebrant. There may be no intinction chalices permitted.
- The celebrant should receive communion LAST, after all in the congregation have received communion.
- Any time there is a laying on of hands by clergy or laity, hand sanitizer should be readily available for use before and after the laying on of hands.

Any specific questions about COVID or revisions in the diocesan protocols not answered in this document should be directed to Canon Scott Holcombe at sholcombe@cfdiocese.org.