

MEMORANDUM



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

DATE December 23, 2021

TO Priests, Deacons, and Parish Office Staff

FROM Fr. Wilbert Chin Jon

SUBJECT Music Ministry During High Daily Number of Confirmed Cases in the Province

With high daily number of confirmed cases reported, this memorandum on music ministry is being issued to address the concern of aerosols and aerosolization which are factors in the transmission of COVID-19, specifically the highly contagious Omicron variant.

The task force between the Archdiocese of Edmonton and the Diocese of Calgary has been advised by the medical professional in public health whom we consult to take much more seriously the current situation in the province and the country.

Yesterday's number alone has nearly doubled from 786 of the previous to 1346 cases. It is projected to continue to increase dramatically over the coming days and weeks.

We are aware that the majority of infections takes place in homes among individuals of different households especially during Christmas as families gather together. The extra precaution that is being introduced in the parishes at this time is designed to prevent further transmission as members of various households gather in the church especially during the Christmas season.

At this time, we must remind our parishioners of the following.

- Stay home when not feeling well. This is more heroic than to go to church with symptoms.
- Masks are mandatory unless exempt based on medical conditions. If there are medical concerns, it would be more prudent to avoid going to church and being in crowds of people.
- Physical distance of at least 2 metres or 6 feet is required for people of various households.
- Regularly sanitize or wash hands.
- Do not shake hands or hug others who are not from the same household.
- No congregational singing allowed.
- Do not congregate inside the church before and after Mass. Socializing outdoors is lower risk compared to gathering indoors. Please stay clear of church doors.

Music Ministry

- Only one cantor will be allowed to sing at each Mass provided the following requirements are met. Otherwise, only have instrumental music throughout the Mass.
 - At least 8 feet distance from any one including the instrumentalist.
 - Except for the pipe organ, wind instruments are to be avoided.
 - A cantor and an instrumentalist from the same household can be close to each other but at least 8 feet from everyone else. Cohorts will not be recognized for cantors and instrumentalists.
 - If your church has this building feature, a cantor can be in a separate room behind the glass wall adjacent to the nave or sanctuary.
 - Plexi-glass barriers may be used but the cantor must wear a mask at all times, even when singing.
 - Masks need to be properly worn and fitted well.
 - It must cover the nose and the mouth and should not be lifted when singing.
 - Avoid touching the mask itself.
 - The use of a rapid test device and a negative result do not exempt the cantor from the above restrictions as the result may be a false negative.
- Family Choirs
 - Regretfully, family choirs are not permitted to sing at this time to lower the risk of transmission through aerosols and aerosolization.

Suggested announcement before the beginning of Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

“Welcome to _____ parish. We are glad that we are able to gather together for Mass to celebrate the beautiful season of Christmas.

With the increased number of confirmed cases in the province and in the country, we are reminded to care for one another and to observe the health and safety restrictions for everyone’s good.

Please be reminded to wear your mask and to wear it properly, sanitize your hands, and keep the required physical distancing when you are not from the same household.

(If there is music at the Mass) Please be reminded as well that there will be NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING at this time.”