

COVID-19 GUIDELINES for PHASE 5
beginning on June 11, 2021
for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
Complying with Archdiocesan and State regulations

Capacity

- All capacity restrictions are lifted.
- Masses, liturgies, sacramental celebrations, parish and all offices may resume 100% capacity. **So, we will slowly implement them.**
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Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing is NOT required for vaccinated persons.
- Physical distancing **is recommended** by public health authorities, when possible, for unvaccinated persons if conditions allow up to 6 ft. of separation.

Masks

- **Masks are NOT required for vaccinated persons.** The only exception is the priest or deacon celebrating infant baptism – we should continue to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status when we are close to the infant’s nose and mouth to best protect the health of the infant. We could not wear a mask during the rest of the service.
- **Masks are recommended** by public health authorities **for unvaccinated** indoors, particularly in crowded venues.
- We continue **requiring Mask while we are unable** to verify who is vaccinate and who is not.

Hand Sanitizing

- Hand sanitizer should remain prominently available in churches, schools and offices.
- **We will continue sanitizing people at the entrance and a communion time.**

Masses and Liturgies

- All forms of sacramental and liturgical ministry may resume normal practice with a few minor exceptions noted below.
- **Registration is no longer required.**
We will maintain the reservations system accounts (e.g. SignUpGenius) or document for registration processes in the event we need to resume them to any degree in the fall or winter if concerning metrics related to the pandemic warrant such a return. (Hopefully not).
- Proof of vaccination is not required for attendance at any liturgies or services.
- Holy Water fonts will soon be filled and used.
- Ushers and all other ministries will resume their pre-pandemic routine;
- Choirs, congregational signing, oral responses, use of worship aids, envelopes and bulletins are fully resumed
- The Sign of Peace will be soon restored. Pastoral care and prudence are needed here to ensure everyone at Mass feels cared for and is sensitive to the limits and comfort of each other in exchanging the Sign of Peace.
- Reception of Holy Communion:
 - **The archdiocese states the following:** receiving Holy Communion in the hand no longer requires extra hand sanitizing on the part of the Communicant. However, the priest and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should continue to sanitize their hands prior to distributing Communion.
 - Receiving Holy Communion on the tongue may resume; however, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must have hand

sanitizer nearby and use it immediately in the event of contact with saliva (which is good practice in all circumstances).

- Distributing/receiving Holy Communion from the cup remains suspended at this time; concelebrants should proceed with the practice of intinction. The archdiocese will communicate once sharing of the cup may resume.
- **The covid-19 team of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, for the time being, will continue to sanitize hands before communion and offer communion only on the hands.**

Social gatherings

- All social gatherings (potlucks, office luncheons, parish picnics, carnivals, etc.) may resume while incorporating the guidance on masks and physical distancing noted here.

Reporting COVID-related Illnesses

Parishes should continue to encourage parishioners to report if they become COVID-positive and if they attended a Mass or liturgy within three days of diagnosis. Additionally, parishes, Pastoral Center and agencies should request staff to report any COVID-positive diagnoses, as well. In such instances:

- Parish, Pastoral Center and agency supervisors should continue to submit an [Intake Form](#).
- School leaders should continue to submit the [School Intake Form](#).
- At parishes, a notice with date and time of Mass/liturgy should be posted on the parish website alerting parishioners who were also in attendance that they should monitor themselves, especially if unvaccinated.

Anointing of the Sick

Beginning July 1, the COVID-19 Anointing Team will be deactivated, and parishes will need to resume providing anointers for hospitals within their area that normally would call for Anointing of the Sick. Simple, minimal precautionary instructions will be distributed to clergy prior July 1.