

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 39 – June 9, 2021

INFORMATION

To pastors, pastoral teams and religious communities

Brothers and sisters, please take note of the good news affecting our whole diocese:

1. New phase of de-confinement

- **Monday, June 14:** transition to **yellow** zone status in all areas of our diocese. From this date forward, all our places of worship will be permitted to have a maximum of 250 participants in attendance at each Mass, this number not including liturgical servers. The order applies to the place of worship as a whole, regardless whether it has separate entrances.
- **From now until June 14,** our places of worship remain in **orange** zone status and may have a maximum of 100 participants in attendance at any given Mass.

2. Guidelines in effect starting June 14

- **Outdoor Masses:** the same rules apply here as for places of worship in the **yellow** zone, including: a maximum of 250 people may attend; distancing of two metres must be observed; and masks must be worn at all times.
- **Baptisms:** As of Monday, June 14, in the **yellow** zone, Baptisms may be celebrated, including during Mass, with a maximum of 250 persons in attendance observing physical distancing of two metres and wearing masks at all times.
- **Communions and Confirmations:** As of Monday, June 14, First Communions and Confirmations in the **yellow** zone may be attended by a maximum of 250 participants, not including liturgical servers. These celebrations may be held as part of a Sunday or weekday Mass.
- **Weddings and funerals:** These celebrations, including burials, may be attended by up to a maximum of 50 persons.
 - **Condolences in the church:** a family may arrive in advance of the scheduled time of the funeral, in order to receive the condolences of family and friends. There can be a "rotation" of people offering their sympathies and then leaving the church, allowing for others to follow suit. The important thing is never to have more than 50 people in the church at any given time.
 - Families are requested to respect the rules in effect pertaining to private gatherings.
- **Masks and distancing:** The wearing of a **procedure mask** is still mandatory. A distance of two metres must be maintained at all times between persons from different households.
- **Singing in the congregation:** remains prohibited for the time being.
- **Churchwardens' meetings:** Churchwardens' meetings may be held without an audience. It would be wise to reserve a large enough room to facilitate distancing of two metres between attendees. Masks must be worn, but may be removed while speaking.
- **Protocol in effect:** The basic document setting out health regulations applicable to places of worship is the interfaith protocol, the most recent version of which can be found on the diocesan website: https://diocesemontreal.org/sites/default/files/ressources/ressources_paroisses/personnel_patoral/COVID-19/2021-04-08_Protocole_table_interreligieuse_FINAL_en.pdf

3. FAQ and other items:

- The situation continues to evolve rapidly. We will keep you informed of any changes or updates to help you best serve your communities.
- In addition, you will soon receive an FAQ addressing the most frequently asked questions.

4. Decree with respect to Confirmation

- The [general decree](#) providing for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation by parish priests and administrators has been extended until **September 30**.
- **This special measure** is now extended to parish vicars, duly appointed to the parish by the Archbishop and with the consent of the parish priest.

May the Lord continue to bless the efforts of every one of us, so that this pandemic may be overcome both here and elsewhere, and may our renewed commitment to the Gospel be contagious!

In Jesus the Saviour,



+ Alain Faubert
Auxiliary Bishop, Montreal