

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 59 – FEBRUARY 14, 2022
INFORMATION

**To members of pastoral teams,
To priests, deacons, PCLs, LPAs,
To the faithful active in their communities,
To members of religious communities,
To Archdiocesan staff,**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As our missionary activities have been going on, come rain or shine, several changes must be announced concerning health guidelines. These changes will certainly have a major impact on how we carry out our activities. I would therefore encourage you to note carefully the following instructions in this regard, as well as some other important announcements.

A. HEALTH GUIDELINES

First of all, below is a summary of the guidelines concerning places of worship following the Premier's announcement of February 8. It was stated that this timetable could be accelerated if the health situation improves more quickly than expected. Almost all of the measures described here can be found on the [Quebec government website](#).

1. PLACES OF WORSHIP

a) **Current (until February 20)**

- Places of worship: operate at 50% of capacity, up to 250 persons, with vaccination passports. These limits also apply to funerals.
- Funerals, without vaccination passports, maximum of 50 persons.
- Viewing with body or ashes present in a place of worship: maximum of 50 persons, with no rotation of participants, passport not required.

b) **February 21**

- Places of worship: 50% of capacity up to 500 persons, vaccination passport is required. These limits also apply to funerals.
- Communion during Masses: since all participants must remain in their places and not move about, ministers will go among the congregation to distribute Communion.
- Funerals may be held without passports, with a maximum of 50 persons attending.
- Viewing with the body or ashes present in a place of worship: maximum of 50 persons, with no rotation of participants, passport not required.

c) **March 14**

- Celebrations in places of worship: Masses, baptisms, Confirmations, First Communion, sacrament of reconciliation, marriages, funerals, expressions of sympathy:
 - Capacity of the place of worship at 100%;
 - **Possibility** of holding the above celebrations or of welcoming individuals for personal prayer, **without requiring vaccination passports**, to a **maximum of 50 persons** at a given time in the place of worship.

2. PRIVATE EVENTS IN A PUBLIC PLACE

- Presently, these are prohibited. Rooms may not be rented for private events of any nature whatsoever. (Only activities held by community groups have authorization to meet, in full compliance with the guidelines governing those organizations.)
- **As of February 21**, it will be possible to hold private events. The vaccination passport will be required; events may be attended by a maximum of 50 persons.
- **As of February 28**, these events will be possible **WITHOUT** vaccination passports, with a maximum of 20 persons attending.

3. CONFERENCES, ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS

- As of February 21, these types of meetings will be permitted to take place at 50% of the capacity of the venue, up to a maximum of 500 persons. This type of meeting does not include Fabrique or pastoral team meetings. A meeting of parishioners would, however, be possible.
- As of March 14, there will no longer be any restrictions on these events.

4. WORK

- At the present time, it is mandatory to work remotely: in-person meetings of Fabrique or pastoral teams are prohibited.
- As of March 14, working remotely will no longer be mandatory, although working in hybrid mode (partially in-person and partially remotely) will be recommended. Fabrique and pastoral team meetings will be possible.

With respect to teaching activities, such as catechesis, the same rules remain that we are following presently. The matter will be raised in the course of upcoming meetings with public-health authorities in order to have further clarification and detail.

5. DETAILS CONCERNING CHOIRS

In a place of worship, the choir performs in front of a congregation. Choir members must follow the CNESST guidelines applicable to places of worship and to the performing arts.

- Choir members must therefore observe a distance of two metres separating themselves from one another, and they must wear masks at all times while indoors, even when physical distancing is being maintained, and even if a physical barrier is in place between the congregation and the choir.
- The vaccination passport is not required.
- As long as physical distancing is maintained or a protective physical barrier is in place, a person may, as an exception and for the briefest period possible, remove his or her mask if it impedes the performance of work-related tasks (e.g., for a singer or wind instrument player). Thus, when the time comes to sing, choir members remove their masks and don them again when they have finished.

B. NOTICES

1. TRAINING SESSIONS – THE ROMAN MISSAL

We have had the new French translation of the Roman Missal in our hands for some months now. In order to promote our assimilation of it and to deepen our understanding of the liturgy as we journey together on our path of Synodality, the office of Liturgy Services is offering three training sessions: (in French only) see [here](#), under the thumbnail Formations, *Habiter le Missel, intervenir en liturgie* (Living the Missal, participating in the liturgy) to learn more. This is a wonderful opportunity to live the Missal together while better serving God's people in the liturgy.

2. REMINDER: OUTDOOR MASSES

We are leaving the responsibility up to pastoral teams to evaluate the need to continue with outdoor Masses, and their decisions will take into consideration the circumstances in their particular settings, along with the wishes of their particular communities. If, in the present circumstances, your pastoral community intends to offer one or more outdoor Masses, please advise us by completing this [form](#) as soon as possible, so that we can update your information on the diocesan [website](#) and keep it as current as possible.

- 3.** The Archdiocese and the Church are hiring! You are invited to click [here](#) to view the jobs being offered.

In closing, dear Brothers and Sisters, I wish for all of you the courage and wisdom and perseverance that our times call for, and I assure you of my prayers on your behalf.

In Jesus the Saviour,



† Alain Faubert, VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal