

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 69 – DECEMBER 7, 2022
UPDATE – PREVENTIVE MEASURES / RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

**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 dear Sisters,

In view of the epidemiological situation with respect to respiratory viruses and the resulting pressure on the Quebec health care system, the Minister of health and social services and the National Director of public health have in recent weeks reaffirmed the importance of wearing masks inside public spaces. It is therefore **strongly recommended**, though not mandatory, for people in busy public places to protect those most at risk by wearing their masks. Hygienic precautions, such as hand-washing and physical distancing, also remain effective means of reducing the spread of viruses. The purpose of these measures is to limit the transmission of respiratory viruses during the holiday period when people tend to gather together. The efforts we make can help ensure that all different areas of social activity, including our own, need not be paralyzed by lockdowns. Let's not forget that this applies to all spaces frequented by the public, including places of worship and community halls.

In addition, let's not forget that those presenting symptoms such as fever should remain at home. Those experiencing other symptoms, such as cough, sore throat or nasal congestion, should wear their masks when going out in public places. Please see these pages: [Steps for limiting the spread of respiratory infectious disease](#) and [Wearing a mask or a face covering](#) to learn more. A poster has also been developed to be posted inside public spaces. At this time, the material exists only in French: [link here](#).

Consequently, I would ask that pastors and all who are in charge in their settings should post these notices where they will be seen and read by the greatest number of people, communicate their contents at any gatherings, on Sundays or any other days during the coming weeks, whether verbally (at the end of mass, for instance) or in writing (in the weekly bulletin, for instance) and put in place in their communities the measures required in order to limit the spread of the viruses.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, Brothers and Sisters, peace and joy as you make your ascent towards the Light of Christmas.

In Jesus our Peace,



†Alain Faubert, VG
Évêque Auxiliaire à Montréal