



Guidelines for Gatherings on Parish Property Outside the Liturgy

Diocesan staff continue to review and interpret directives being issued by the governor's office on a daily basis. Currently, this is what is being required for gatherings and venues outside the liturgy. These can change on a weekly basis, so please watch for updated information. This includes parish-sponsored events and meetings (e.g. parish picnics, faith formation gatherings, RCIA meetings, etc.) as well as non-parish sponsored events held by groups renting or using parish facilities or property.

Effective immediately, April 27, 2021, the Diocese is adopting the Governor's new protocol regarding masking outdoors. Parishes and schools **MAY** choose to **NOT** require a mask during **OUTDOOR** activities if the group size is less than 1,000. This applies to the Liturgy, picnics, playgrounds, sporting events, youth groups or any other outdoor activities.

Effective May 3, 2021, **masks will now be optional in parish work places for staff members** (e.g. staff can be unmasked in their offices, walking the hallways and other normal work routines ensuring that distancing protocols are always followed). Those who feel uncomfortable for any reason may continue to wear a mask. Staff members can meet unmasked in small group settings with other staff members at their own discretion (i.e. groups of 10 or less – group size is relative to the size of the room and capacity and distancing protocols should be followed). Visitors (any non-staff members) should continue to be masked in parish offices and to be screened as they enter the building. **Everyone should remain masked and distanced for any meeting held inside on parish property in which non-staff members are in attendance.**

- Parishes may meet in small group gatherings where strict mask compliance can be enforced. Youth Groups, RCIA, Prayer Groups, Parish Councils etc. can gather in person when mask compliance is manageable (over nose and mouth).
- Any **indoor** gatherings in a public or large area (parish halls): These groups are restricted to a maximum of **60% capacity**. The space must allow for the required distancing and masking.
- Maintain physical distance of six feet minimum from those not living within the same household.
- Wear face covering over mouth and nose. Based on CDC recommendations, everyone over the age of two must wear a mask **for the duration of any event or meeting held inside on parish property**. If the event takes place outside, with fewer than 1,000 in attendance, masks are optional and not required. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age (the CDC does not recommend those under the age of two to wear a mask), health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home.
- Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant.
- Ensure proper, frequent cleaning and sanitation of the gathering space, including restrooms.
- Encourage those at high risk to stay healthy at home.
- Maintain a record of all persons attending the event/meeting and their contact information.

- Follow State of Kentucky [Healthy at Work Requirements for Restaurants and Bars](#) for any form of food service. A summary follows:
 - Discontinue dine-in food and drink service by 12:00 a.m. local prevailing time.
 - Any gathering must not permit customer self-service.
 - Carryout and delivery encouraged.
 - Tables or booths should be placed six (6) feet apart.
 - Locations that choose to have outdoor seating may do so without those customers counting against the 60% occupancy limit so long as those customers remain seated and at least six (6) feet of space is maintained between customers at different tables.
 - Encourage attendees to use hand sanitizer prior to dining and immediately following their meal.
 - Only those living within the same household should sit together.
 - Use disposable napkins, tablecloths, utensils and condiments. Condiments must be single-use, disposable packages.
 - If non-disposable linens (such as cloth napkins, tablecloths, wiping cloths) are used, they must be laundered between uses.
- Ensure that gloves are worn by employees/volunteers who clean or handle high-touch areas of the gathering space.
- Encourage volunteers and attendees to frequently wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer, provided by the event organizer.
- Use appropriate disinfectants to clean frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment.
- Use signage to alert attendees of required occupancy limits, six feet of physical distance and the facial covering requirements.
- Parishes should add a rider to rental contracts specifying that the renter is bound to abide by all government and diocesan restrictions that are in place at the time of the event.