

June 24, 2020

Reminders and Additional Instructions for the Various Lay Ministers and Other Parish Volunteers During the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic

A. General Principles

1. The health and safety protocols enumerated in the Guidelines for the Public Celebration of the Mass in the Diocese of Sacramento (May 26, 2020) and subsequent guidelines issued are applicable in the exercise of the various ministries and programs of the parish. These protocols are to be adhered diligently by the clergy and lay faithful
2. Those who fall in the vulnerable category, individuals 65+ and persons with compromised health conditions should continue to shelter in place. If necessity requires, a person 65+ resumes ministry in the parish, they should not have an underlying condition. The instructions provided are not intended to impede anyone to serve, should they wish to volunteer.
3. Any person exhibiting ANY of the symptoms of COVID-19 Virus infection MUST STAY HOME and follow protocols and all current health ordinances.
4. If there is an instance of a confirmed infection of COVID-19, the parish and the diocese must be notified immediately.

B. Instructions for Various Ministries

1. **Liturgical Ministers** (Lectors, Cantors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristan, Altar Servers, Ministers of Hospitality, et. al.)
 - Pastors MUST provide direction to liturgical ministers regarding the instructions enumerated in the guidelines for the Mass.
 - Each minister is to adhere to ALL the health protocols.
2. **Ministry to the Homebound**
 - Ministers to the homebound are not to do any visits if they are exhibiting any of the COVID-19 infection symptoms
 - They are to refrain from visiting parishioners or residents of care homes, health and rehab facilities, that have incidents of COVID-19 infections.
 - Ministers must wear masks, sanitize properly, maintain physical distance as much as possible, and wear Personal Protective Equipment when required for visit.
 - Visits to the homebound must be limited to distribution of Holy Communion and not unduly prolonged. Consider phone calls and other forms of communication to maintain connection with the homebound.
 - Pastors must consider preparing separate vessels for the hosts to be consecrated for those who are sick and homebound. Pyx with host(s) may also be placed on the altar to be consecrated. Make sure that the pyx has been properly sanitized.

- Family members who wish to bring communion to their family members or friends who are in the vulnerable category may approach the pastor to receive permission and instruction.

3. Other Volunteers

- Any volunteer for ALL ministries should not be from the vulnerable category. (See General Principle #2 above)
- Pastors must exercise prudence in resuming parish ministries, and have the obligation to provide instructions on health and safety protocols
- Volunteer Catechists, Baptismal or Marriage Preparation Instructors, RCIA Leaders, Prayer Group Leaders, etc. who are in the 65+ and without any underlying conditions and there is an urgent pastoral need may be allowed to exercise their ministry using videoconferencing technologies. Pastors should be ready to offer or facilitate access for virtual classes/gatherings.
- Face masks must be worn at all times by parish volunteers, facilitators, and attendees.
- Physical distancing is to be observed at all times and in all locations, this may require changes in group activities, set up and spacing, e.g. ice breakers and small-groups.
- Any parish facility used must be appropriately sanitized.
- Refreshments should not be served, unless they are individual sized, pre-packaged items e.g. cans of soda, bottles of water, single serving snacks.