

# Reopening Planning Committee Update

## IMPORTANT CHANGES

November 10, 2020

### NEW - GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH MEASURES

The Government of Ontario has a new framework for the description of COVID-19 health precautions. The Health Unit in each area will determine the level of risk and accordingly, the health precautions to be put in place.

The Framework has five levels: Green – prevent, Yellow – protect, Orange – restrict, Red – control and Lockdown. A description of the five stages in the framework follows. It is the authority and responsibility of the local Health Unit to determine and monitor the stage for their regional jurisdiction. As of November 10, 2020, these designations apply. Check with the local Health Unit for changes after that date.

<b>Yellow-Protect:</b> Durham Region Health Department Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit	<b>Green-Prevent:</b> Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit Hastings Prince Edward Public Health North Bay Parry Sound District Peterborough Public Health
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### Framework: Adjusting and Tightening Public Health Measures

Act earlier by implementing measures to protect public health and prevent closures

Gradually loosen measures as trends in public health indicators improve

	 <b>PREVENT</b> (Standard Measures)	 <b>PROTECT</b> (Strengthened Measures)	 <b>RESTRICT</b> (Intermediate Measures)	 <b>CONTROL</b> (Stringent Measures)	 <b>LOCKDOWN</b> (Maximum Measures)
Objective	Focus on education and awareness of public health and workplace safety measures in place.	Enhanced targeted enforcement, fines, and enhanced education to limit further transmission.	Implement enhanced measures, restrictions, and enforcement avoiding any closures.	Implement broader-scale measures and restrictions, across multiple sectors, to control transmission (Return to modified Stage 2).	Implement widescale measures and restrictions, including closures, to halt or interrupt transmission (Return to modified Stage 1 or pre-Stage 1).
Tactics	Restrictions reflect broadest allowance of activities in Stage 3 absent a widely available vaccine or treatment.  Highest risk settings remain closed.	Apply public health measures in high risk settings.		Restrictions are the most severe available before widescale business or organizational closure.	Consider declaration of emergency.

## **SINGING AT MASS**

Permission is now given for the use of a single cantor at Mass.

♣ **Group singing is still strongly discouraged.**

♣ Anyone singing or playing wind or brass instruments should be 2 metres from anyone else and separated by an impermeable barrier. If an impermeable barrier is not used, anyone singing or playing wind or brass instruments should be separated from any other person (outside of the same household or social circle) to the greatest extent possible (but at least 2 metres).

*For more information, see: COVID-19 Advice: Religious Services, Rites or Ceremonies, Ministry of Health, August, 2020.*

## **PARISH BULLETINS & OFFERTORY ENVELOPES**

Parishes may prepare paper parish bulletins effective immediately and plan a touchless way to make parish bulletins available to parishioners. Similarly, for the distribution of offertory envelopes, parishes will do so in a manner that avoids touching and the gathering of people around a table.

## **SUNDAY MISSALS AND MISSALETTES**

Parishes can order missals and/or missalettes for parishioners and plan a touchless way to deliver the missals/missalettes. If the parish orders missals/missalettes, follow the same guidelines as noted above for parish bulletins and offertory envelopes. Advise parishioners that paper items left in the church during the pandemic will be collected and put in the recycle bin.

Parishioners can order the Living with Christ missalette through the weblink that follows or by calling 1-514-523-6222:

[https://en.novalis.ca/collections/subscriptions?gclid=Cj0KCQiA7qP9BRCLARIsABDaZzjqMmZMNJ8rH2PfXxT1lv\\_lw-IFi37W0n3X5Ga7QG7mltpGxfBPDMgaAulpEALw\\_wcB](https://en.novalis.ca/collections/subscriptions?gclid=Cj0KCQiA7qP9BRCLARIsABDaZzjqMmZMNJ8rH2PfXxT1lv_lw-IFi37W0n3X5Ga7QG7mltpGxfBPDMgaAulpEALw_wcB)

## **SALE OF GOODS AT THE PARISHES**

Please do not host or hold events for the purpose of selling items such as but not limited to Christmas cards, calendars, Holy Land items, etc. Any such items not essential to the operation of our parishes should not be sold at this time.

# PARISH HALLS, EVENTS, AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS

## Hold on gatherings and events

In order to support provincial recommendations and provide increased protection for our community, Peterborough Public Health is advising that short-term events, such as craft shows, running races, and hobby shows, be suspended until further notice. These events tend to promote gathering and draw attendees from both near and far for non-essential purposes.

*Our request to suspend any approvals of these types of events is in line with [O. Reg. 364/20](#), Schedule 1 Section 2 - (2) The person responsible for a business or organization that is open shall operate the business or organization in compliance with the advice, recommendations and instructions of public health officials, including any advice, recommendations or instructions on physical distancing, cleaning or disinfecting.*

Additionally, as we move into the holiday season, we will not be approving any applications for parades, unless they are modified to meet the Regulation.

*Source: Peterborough City and County Health Unit, November 9, 2020.*

## Proposed Measures for Meeting and Event Spaces

	 <b>PREVENT</b> (Standard Measures)	 <b>PROTECT</b> (Strengthened Measures)	 <b>RESTRICT</b> (Intermediate Measures)	 <b>CONTROL</b> (Stringent Measures)
<b>Current Restrictions</b>	Limits: • 50 people indoors • 100 people outdoors *exception for court/government services, weddings, funerals • As of August 21, 2020, if operating in compliance with a plan approved by the OCMOH: 50 persons per room, subject to conditions in the plan			Limits: • 10 people per facility indoors • 25 people outdoors • 6 people per table
<b>Proposed</b>	Limits: • 50 people indoors • 100 people outdoors *exception for court/government services, weddings, funerals • Booking multiple rooms for the same event not permitted • As of August 21, 2020, OCMOH plan: 50 persons per room, where physical distancing can be maintained, subject to conditions in the plan	Measures from previous levels and: • Limit operating hours, establishments must close at midnight • Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. • No consumption of liquor permitted between 12 a.m. to 9 a.m. • Require contact information for all seated patrons • Limit of 6 people may be seated together • Limit volume of music (e.g., to be no louder than the volume of a normal conversation) • <a href="#">Safety plan</a> available upon request	Measures from previous levels and: • Maximum of 50 people per facility (revoke capacity limit on a per room basis as per (CMOH plan) • Limit operating hours, establishments close at 10 p.m. • Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. • No consumption of liquor between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. • Limit of 4 people may be seated together • Require screening of patrons (e.g., questionnaire)	Measures from previous levels and: Limits: • 10 people per facility indoors • 25 people outdoors

LOCKDOWN  
 Stage 1 / Pre-Stage 1

## **CHRISTMAS AND THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

The information about Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God in this Update is intended to assist parishes with their planning for the Christmas season. It is recognized that things are changing suddenly during this time of pandemic so plans for the Christmas season need to be responsive to the health precautions in place at the time.

### **DISPENSATION FROM THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS**

Priests and the faithful are reminded that the Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains in effect as follows.

*“The obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not apply to those who are ill, especially those who suffer from a contagious illness. Those with flu-like symptoms should remain at home in order not to spread the virus to others.”* – +Most Reverend Bishop Miehm, March 13, 2020, COVID-19 Update #1

*“During this period of transition, I continue to dispense the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Those most at risk because of advanced age or compromised health should consider not attending Mass during this time, or attending only weekday celebrations of the Mass when participants are fewer.”* - Letter from +Most Reverend Bishop Miehm to the Faithful, June 10, 2020

*“This Dispensation also applies to Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God.”* - +Bishop Miehm, November 10, 2020.

### **HOW MANY MASSES CAN A PRIEST CELEBRATE AT CHRISTMAS?**

An individual priest may celebrate up to three Masses on Christmas Eve and three Masses on Christmas Day, as needed. If a priest needs to celebrate more than three masses in a day, contact the Chancellor of Spiritual Affairs to request a dispensation from the Bishop. The applicable canons and commentary are quoted below.

*Can. 905 §1. A priest is not permitted to celebrate the Eucharist more than once a day except in cases where the law permits him to celebrate or concelebrate more than once on the same day.*

*§2. If there is a shortage of priests, the local ordinary can allow priests to celebrate twice a day for a just cause, or if pastoral necessity requires it, even three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation.*

“The Bishop may permit priests to trinate, i.e. celebrate three times, on Sundays or holydays of obligation. The Ordinary may not give a broader faculty than is permitted in this canon without permission of the Holy See. However, in an individual case and for sufficient reason, a diocesan

bishop could dispense from this canon in virtue of can. 87, §1.” Source -*The Canon Law Letter and Spirit; A Practical Guide to the Code of Canon Law*, The Canon Law Society Trust, 1995, pp. 497-498.

**WHEN CAN THE CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE BEGIN?**

Pope Pius XII’s Apostolic Constitution *Christus Dominus* (Jan. 6, 1953) states that an evening Mass on the day before a Sunday or Holy Day should not begin before 4:00 p.m.

**WHAT IF THE PARISH NEEDS TO BEGIN THE CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE EARLIER?**

Diocesan bishops can dispense from universal disciplinary laws (see canon 87) provided it contributes to the spiritual good of the faithful. The timing of Mass is a disciplinary matter. If it is necessary to begin the Christmas Eve mass schedule before 4:00 p.m. on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, contact the Chancellor of Spiritual Affairs to request a dispensation from the Bishop.

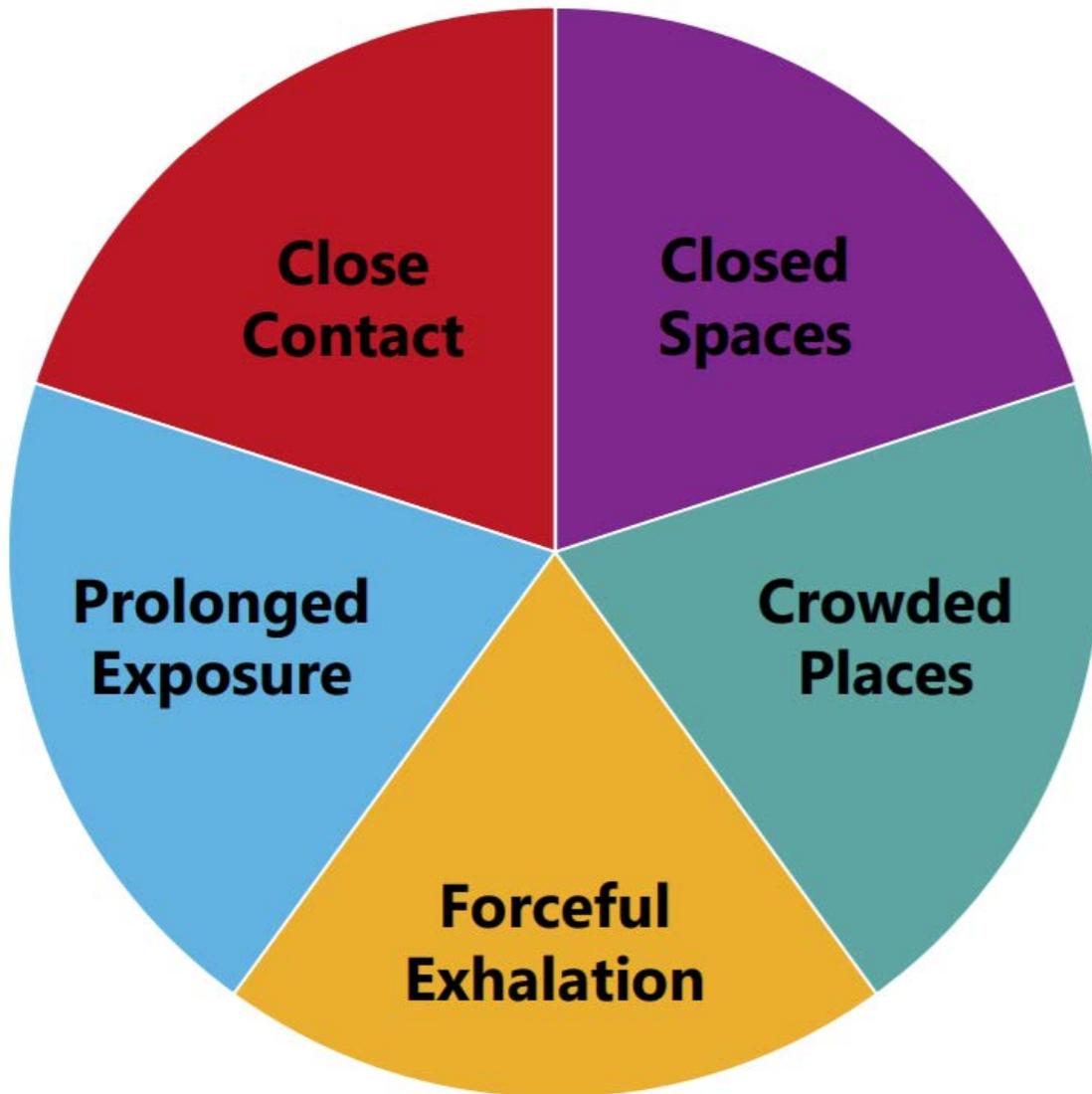
**WHAT IF I NEED ASSISTANCE?**

Contact the Chancellor of Spiritual Affairs to arrange for the assistance priests need for the Mass celebration schedule at the parishes during the Christmas season.

# APPENDIX

## RISK FACTORS

The risk factors for COVID-19 are detailed below noting that “close contact” poses the highest risk.



## TAKING RISK FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT

The risk factors are used to determine the risk level and need to be mitigated by health precautions.

**Risk – Close Contact** – Keep a minimum of 6 feet or 2 metres of physical distance from others who are not in your household.

**Risk – Closed Spaces** – Ensure ventilation and the circulation of the airflow.

**Risk - Crowded places** – Crowds of people challenge the requirements for physical distancing and make it almost impossible for contact tracing in the event of an infection.

**Risk – Prolonged exposure** – Proximity lasting more than 15 minutes increases the risk of virus infection.

**Risk – Forceful exhalation** – The ON Regulation 364/20 requires the wearing of face masks to curtail the spread of droplets from speaking, etc.

## HEALTH PRECAUTIONS IN OUR PARISHES

- Safely determine 1/3 capacity of a church
- Sanitize and be vigilant about the hygiene practices at the church
- Post signage for the wearing of face masks, entrances, exits, use of hand sanitizers, etc.
- Establish distinct doorways for entering and exiting
- Ask ushers to seat parishioners so that physical distance is maintained.
- Make the Diocesan announcement before the weekend Masses during the pandemic.
- REVISED – Follow safe health precautions for singing at Masses.
- Instruct parishioners about clear procedures for the distribution of Holy Communion
- Face masks are now required in places of worship and work sites in the province of Ontario. Make sure signage is posted, priest is wearing the mask when he is not speaking/singing, the parishioners are verbally reminded to wear mask and have a supply of face masks on hand in case parishioners have forgotten to bring a face mask. (Those who have a medical exemption from wearing the face mask are to be respected and welcomed.)