



## MEMORANDUM

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**To: All Parishes, All Clergy, All Chancery**  
**From: Jim Milway, Chancellor of Temporal Affairs**  
**Date: March 9, 2022**  
**Re: Updates on Covid-19 Restrictions**

The Archdiocese of Toronto has followed the Government of Ontario's Covid-19 guidance throughout the pandemic. Today, the provincial government announced the end of public masking requirements in most non-medical settings effective Monday, March 21, 2022. As such, our churches, halls and offices will also no longer require masking starting on Monday, March 21, 2022.

We anticipate that local municipalities will follow the lead of the province in removing bylaws requiring masks, but we will communicate with you should local circumstances change.

This change will be stressful for some members of our community and we ask that you continue to pastorally help those who are isolated, sick and afraid, as you have done throughout the pandemic. Some people will still want to wear masks in churches and offices, and they should not be discouraged from doing so.

During Lent, we are making a special effort to welcome all the faithful back to church and we should do everything we can to ensure people have positive experiences when they come back to our parishes.

### **Updates on Covid-19 Restrictions:**

- Indoor masking requirements end in churches, parish halls and offices starting on Monday, March 21, 2022
- Churches can currently rent their halls, and food/drink can currently be served in halls, provided that people wear masks when standing; people should be seated to eat or drink, so they can take their masks off, as is the case in restaurants
- Starting Monday, March 21, all Covid-19 restrictions end in our parish halls
- Starting on Monday, March 21, restrictions on choir activities end
- Starting on March 21, individuals aged 18 and older, who have received their Covid-19 booster shot and who are asymptomatic for Covid, do not need to self-isolate when they are in close contact with someone who tests positive for Covid-19 (including if the sick person is a member of their household). The self-isolation requirement is also lifted for those younger than 18 years old who are asymptomatic and who have had two Covid-19 vaccine doses. If you meet these criteria, for 10 days you must wear a mask in public, refrain from elective visits to medical settings and avoid physical contact with those who are vulnerable to Covid

- Those who do not meet the above criteria and who have a Covid-19 close contact, must continue to self-isolate according to current provincial regulations
- Pastors are in the best position to determine the return to work plans in their parish office, but as a guide, the Pastoral Centre staff will start their full hybrid work arrangements as of Monday, April 4