



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

123 Nelson Rd
Saskatoon SK S7S 1H1
www.rcdos.ca

Phone: 306-242-1500
Fax: 306-244-6010
Toll free: 877-661-5005



November 6, 2020

**UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19 DIRECTIVES FOR
LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS**

Dear Pastors, Parish Life Directors, and Faithful of the Diocese of Saskatoon:

The Government of Saskatchewan has issued a new Public Health Order **effective November 6, 2020, requiring the use of masks** for individuals and businesses within the City of Regina, City of Saskatoon, and City of Prince Albert. **This includes all places of worship.** The current Public Health Order respecting masking can be found on the Government of Saskatchewan website under [Public Health Orders](#).

Attached please find Directives for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, which have been updated in accordance with the Public Health Order effecting all parishes and other church establishments. As you will note, at the current time the mandate for masks applies for parishes and ministry within the City of Saskatoon, while the remaining directives apply to the Diocese as a whole. With respect to masking for Parishes in the City of Saskatoon, please note we have been informed that the following updates are being made to the Public Health Order:

- Speakers at podiums are not required to wear their mask while speaking to the congregation provided that there is a minimum 3 meters (10 feet) between the speaker and others. This means a priest and/or lector are not required to use a mask provided that they are at least 3 meters (10 feet) from other members of the congregation. Masks are always otherwise to be worn.
- There is no exception to masking for cantors, singers, or soloists at this time. The public health order requires that they wear a mask.
- The public health order applies to all people, even those who are stationary and seated.

As of publishing this letter, the updates that relate to presiders/ speakers at religious services have not been formalized on the provincial government website. For this weekend – we will presume that they will be given. Should this change, or should other changes be made to the Public Health Order extending the mandate re: masking province wide, the directives would be amended to include all ministry and ecclesial establishments in the Diocese of Saskatoon.

Please take the time to review the attached updated directives as various updates have been made, most notably with respect to options for the distribution of Communion.

We continue to pray for our Diocese and for our world, and especially for those who are sick or who are especially vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic. We are grateful for the religious leaders working group that has been liaising with the Government of Saskatchewan, to speak on behalf of spiritual and faith needs of the people of our diocese and of all Saskatchewan.

Sincerely, in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Mark A. Hagemoen". The signature is written in a cursive style.

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen
Bishop of Saskatoon