



**DIOCESE OF PATERSON
DIOCESAN CENTER**

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Publications of New Health and Safety Guidelines

Dear brother in Christ,

In light of the changes in policy by the State of New Jersey which will become effective May 28th and June 4th, 2021 regarding protocols for health and safety in time of pandemic, there is expectation of change in diocesan health and safety protocols as well. The Guidelines will be updated shortly and it is hoped that they can be ready for publication by this Thursday afternoon. In the meantime, certain changes in procedure can be anticipated in light of the changes indicated by the Executive Order 242 (May 24, 2021) of the Governor:

- Elimination of the requirement of masks in churches.
- The requirement for maintaining six feet of social distancing is eliminated.
- People who are not vaccinated will be required to wear a mask.
- Enforcement will be on the honor system.
- Those not fully vaccinated should wear a mask indoors.
- Effective Friday, June 4th, all indoor gathering limits will be lifted.
- The Executive Order does not apply to schools. Therefore, the school year will conclude with the health and safety protocols for the pandemic in place.

The Bishops of the Province of Newark have agreed to uniformly lift the general dispensation from the obligation of Mass attendance effective for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (June 5-6, 2021). The relaxation of the health and safety protocols will no doubt help parishes to encourage the faithful to return to in-person participation Mass as their health permits.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or other diocesan staff.

With every good wish and a promise of prayers, I

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor T. Mark Condon
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia