



## The Diocese of Algoma

### Guidelines for Indoor Pastoral Visitation (Amber Stage)

- In-person visits with parishioners and others should be limited as much as possible to supporting a highly vulnerable and isolated older adult, anointing and/or comforting a gravely ill or dying person, providing support to the bereaved or others in similarly difficult circumstances.
- For all inside pastoral visits, a mask must be worn, and physical distancing should be maintained throughout the visit as much as possible.
- In-person pastoral visits should not be undertaken to people who are self-isolating or those who have been infected by COVID-19.
- If permitted to visit in an institution, follow all institutional guidelines when making visits to long-term care facilities and/or hospitals. Visit only one person at any time, even if that means separated visits to the home or hospital. If you are unsure of the protocols, call ahead and speak with the nursing station.
- Following a visit to an institution where COVID-19 may be present, wash your hands thoroughly, go directly home, change and launder clothes.
- Do not shake hands or hug.
- Clerics or pastoral visitors must be healthy, and should be without an underlying medical condition that makes them vulnerable.
- Clerics and pastoral visitors must self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses before visiting. Do not visit if there is any sign of illness.
- Anointing should be administered by moistening a cotton ball with the Oil of the Sick, and then anointing the sick person with the cotton ball. The cotton ball must be burned immediately after the visit.
- If Communion is being administered to the sick or dying person, reserved sacrament is preferable; taking only what is needed for the administration. If the sick or dying person is unable to consume the host, the wine should be administered by spoon. The spoon should only be used once in the visit.
- The cleric or pastoral visitor should sanitize their hands both before and after administering the bread (and/or wine, via spoon).
- All purificators and vessels should be washed immediately after the visit.