



# The Diocese of Algoma

## **Guidelines for Provincial State of Emergency Effective January 14, 2021**

The Government of Ontario has declared a 28-day State of Emergency for the province, effective at 12:01am on Thursday, January 14, 2021. Here are the protocols in effect for the Diocese of Algoma.

### **Church buildings are to remain closed except for the following:**

- Recording or live-streaming worship
- Regular security/maintenance checks done by a single individual (or two individuals from the same household) as required by the insurance carrier.
- Tasks of clergy or parish staff that cannot be done from home. In such instances, time in the church building is to be minimized as much as possible.
- Vital outreach ministries such as food insecurity or 'Out of the Cold' programs.
- 12-step programs (maximum of 10 people/meeting)
- Counting of offerings: only two (2) persons only may be present in the building to count offerings and prepare the bank deposit. Counters must wear masks and maintain physical distancing.
- Funerals with a maximum of ten (10) persons. This number does not include funeral home staff, but does include ministers such as the presider or musician. All participants must wear masks and follow physical distancing regulations. The Celebration of the Eucharist is not to take place. A reception is not to take place. (*Note: Outdoor funerals in the cemetery also allow a maximum of ten persons. However, outside of a graveside service, only a maximum of five (5) persons is allowed in the cemetery. People wear masks and follow physical distancing regulations.*)
- Weddings with a maximum of five (5) persons. This number represents the Officiant, couple, and witnesses. All participants must wear masks and follow physical distancing regulations. The Celebration of the Eucharist is not to take place. A reception is not to take place.

A schedule should be developed so the above activities do not overlap and sufficient time for cleaning is provided.

## **Recording or Live-streaming Services**

- Parishes are prohibited from in-person worship within the church building, except for the above-mentioned exceptions. Therefore, worship may take place via an online platform such as Zoom, be recorded or broadcast by incumbents or clergy from their home, or streamed or recorded in the worship space.
- Streamed and recorded services are to be Prayer Office or Liturgy of the Word only.
- A maximum of five (5) persons is permitted to be present to record or live-stream worship services, including any AV people. You are encouraged, however, to involve as few individuals as possible. While the provincial maximum allows for up to ten persons, our practice will be to follow the advice of our epidemiological consultant to reflect the general guidelines for Ontario, reducing non-household contacts as much as possible.
- When recording or live-streaming services in which more than one person is present, masks must be worn at all times and physical distancing guidelines must be followed.
- If services are recorded in segments so that more than five people are seen to be involved but are not present at the same time, please have that noted at the start and/or end of the recording.

## **Communication**

- Delivery of worship materials, Christian education materials, parish newsletters, etc. is permitted if done in a non-contact manner.
- Communication should be sent to parishioners informing them that the church building is closed for the present time, and that they may not drop into the building for any reason without prior authorization from the Incumbent or Wardens.

**Should any of our restrictions or guidelines differ from those of the provincial government or your local health unit, the more stringent regulations are always to be followed.**

If you have any questions, please contact Archdeacon Jay Koyle at [congdevelopment@dioceseofalgoma.com](mailto:congdevelopment@dioceseofalgoma.com)