** The Diocese of Algoma**

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

*Revised 16-07-2021*

* Pastoral visits should be outdoors when possible. Many long-term care facilities now have set up space to allow for this option.
* Indoor 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. 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. Unless contraindicated, clerics and pastoral visitors who are not fully vaccinated should schedule appointments to become so as soon as possible.
* 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.
* Hands should be sanitized immediately before and after anointing with the Oil of the Sick.
* 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.