

Plan for Reducing Covid-19 Restrictions

March 15, 2021/April 15, 2021/April 29, 2021

Observable data utilized for decisions to lift restrictions:

▪ Percentage Vaccinated.

- As of April 28, 2021, 41% of adults in WY have received at least one vaccination, and 34% are fully vaccinated. [COVID-19 Vaccine Data - Wyoming Department of Health](#)
- Encourage vaccination as it will help us to move more quickly between phases. The target of the CDC is 70-80% of the entire population to reach herd immunity.

PHASE ONE: Beginning March 27-28, 2021, *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

• Weekend Masses:

- Fifty percent (50%) church capacity, not to exceed 500
- Face masks are required for those three (3) years old and older, unless precluded by a medical condition.
- Ask people to maintain as much spacing as possible between households.
- Holy water fonts may be filled; however, provide hand sanitizer for people to use before accessing the font. (You may wish to wait until Easter Sunday.)
- Baskets with handles may be used by ushers to take up the collection.
- Daily sanitizing and cleaning procedures for the facility, especially high touch areas, are strongly encouraged.
- Other restrictions remain in place and will be eased in future phases.

• Daily Masses:

- With a few people: (1) wear face masks on entering, moving through the church (e.g., Communion), and exiting; (2) in the pew face masks are not required while maintaining at least six feet distancing.
- With larger crowds, observe the protocol outlined above for Weekend Masses.

• Other events: Parish groups may meet observing:

- Requirement for face masks,
- Fifty percent (50%) room capacity not to exceed 500, and
- Preferably six (6) feet spacing between households.

Planning for Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday:

- One Easter Vigil is to be celebrated. See the notes for the TRIDUUM which Fr. Rob Spaulding sent out on March 5, 2021.
- Each priest may celebrate four (4) Easter Sunday Masses.

PHASE ONE B: Beginning April 17-18, 2021, *Third Sunday of Easter*

- **Changes to Liturgies**
 - 75% of room capacity may be utilized.
 - Distancing no longer required for any gathering.
 - Face coverings still required.
 - Traditional entrance and recessional processions may be done
 - Offertory procession may be done, provided wine and hosts are in covered vessels
 - Altar servers may be used

- **Other Changes**
 - Depending on the protocols of local facilities, Communion may be brought to Care Facilities and Mass may be celebrated.
 - Weather permitting, parishioners may gather outside following liturgies for hospitality, for example coffee and donuts.
 - If food and drink is served, masks and gloves should be used by those serving. Self-serve is not possible at this time

PHASE TWO: Beginning Friday, May 14 – *If a serious outbreak occurs, protocols may be reinstated.*

- No capacity restrictions.
- Best medical counsel is to wear face masks when indoors or crowded outdoor settings.
- Face masks are encouraged for all, especially for those not vaccinated. To accommodate those with health conditions, it is strongly recommended to celebrate one weekend Mass where face masks are required.
- Face masks are required for liturgical ministers when processing, distributing Communion or in close proximity to others.
- Altar servers may hold Missal and carry candles for the Gospel.
- Any Eucharistic Prayer may be used following normal liturgical directives.
- Deacons may elevate the Chalice.
- Traditional gestures for the Sign of Peace may resume (e.g., handshake, embrace, etc.) with option of choosing to do a no-touch gesture (e.g., bow, nod, wave, etc.)
- Communion on the tongue is permitted at the end of the regular distribution of Holy Communion after everyone has received on the hand.
- Confessionals and adoration chapels may be used with face masks. Air sanitizer or filtration system with UV-A-C light is recommended in the room.
- Meals, snacks, and treats may be served (e.g., funeral receptions) with those serving the meal wearing face masks and food and beverages being served (no buffet/self-service). Other State and local health and food safety directives and precautions are to be followed.
- Day trips may be taken.
- Similar practices are to be observed for other parish meetings, activities, and ministries.

PHASE THREE: TBD, Return to common practices

- Face masks are optional for everyone.
- Hymnals and missalettes may be used.
- No limitations on singing.
- Communion distributed from the Chalice.
- Communion on the tongue is permitted at any time during the regular distribution of Communion.
- Confessionals and adoration chapels may be used without face masks. Air sanitizer or filtration system with UV-A-C light is recommended in the room.
- Overnight trips may be taken.
- Meals may be served utilizing common health and food safety precautions (buffets may be used/self-service permitted)
- Special sanitizing and cleaning procedures may be discontinued.