

## ADDENDUM

On May 27, 2020, Bishop Jaime Soto sent the health officials of the twenty counties in the Diocese of Sacramento a copy of the Guidelines for the Resumption of the Public Celebration of Masses (Revised May 26, 2020). The majority of the county health officials responded positively to the steps the diocese has taken in order to ensure the health and safety of the faithful. The health officials provided feedback.

**Note:** The Diocesan guidelines are the primary guide for the parishes. Each county has established their particular standards of health and safety guidelines to curtail the further spread of the COVID-19 virus. Pastors/Parochial Administrators are to consider the particular health and safety requirements of their respective counties. Consult with the Bishop's Office at the Pastoral Center if there are questions or concerns.

**The following are some of the revisions to the guidelines:**

*(The revisions are in bold and the brief explanation is in red)*

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### A. General Principles

#### 8. Parishioners are to wear masks during the service.

*\*it is no longer recommended to wear gloves.*

*Masks are to be worn during the entire liturgy.*

*Communicants are to receive communion wearing the masks, step to one side and consume the Body of Christ.*

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### C. Preparation for the Liturgy

#### 2) Ministers at Mass

##### a) Priests/Deacons

- It is encouraged that priests/deacons vest in a separate room from other ministers. Avoid crowding in the sacristy with other ministers as much as possible.

- Only one deacon should assist at Mass.

- Wear a mask DURING the distribution of the Body of Christ.

**- The communicant is to receive the host on their hand, step on one side and consume the Body of Christ**

*\*The parishioners are to be given sufficient instructions on the reception of the Body of Christ.*

##### b) Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

- Ensure that EMHCs are properly instructed regarding the distribution of Holy Communion

- If an EMHC is assigned to prepare the items for Mass, they must be instructed on the proper sanitary procedures.

- If an EMHC is to distribute communion in an overflow area, the same instruction and proper sanitation procedure applies.

- Wear a mask DURING the distribution of the Body of Christ.
- **The communicant is to receive the host on their hand, step on one side and consume the Body of Christ**

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D. The Celebration of the Mass

**5) Distribution of Holy Communion**

e) The Ministers of Communion and EMHC must ensure that social distancing is observed as planned. The ministers of hospitality/ushers are to assist in the process.

- **The communicants are to continue wearing the mask during the distribution of Holy Communion. Upon receiving communion, they are to step to one side and consume the Body of Christ.**

***The priest may instruct those wishing to receive communion on the tongue to approach communion at the end of the communion procession.***

*\*In the comments and feedback received from several county health officials, they have strongly advised the suspension of the reception of communion on the tongue. Their advice is based more recent studies on the transmission of the COVID-19 virus.*