

## The Venerable Robert Camara Executive Archdeacon & Vicar General

March 25, 2021

Dear colleagues,

This morning the Government of Quebec published changes to the restrictions and guidelines to places of worship. They have again changed the capacity permitted in places of worship. This letter amends our diocesan guidelines in the areas listed below. We revert back to Phase II and Phase III guidelines that were published in the original guidelines with respect to **worship only**.

As of Sunday, March 28, if you are in **Phase II** any in-person worship gatherings must be limited to no more than **50** people, or 50% of the capacity of the worship space while following distancing guidelines of separation between households, **whichever is fewer**.

As of Sunday, March 28, if you are in **Phase III** any in-person worship gatherings must be limited to no more than **250** people, or 50% of the capacity of the worship space while following distancing guidelines of separation between households, **whichever is fewer**.

Funerals and weddings in orange or red zones must be limited to <u>no more than</u> 25 people, or 50% of the capacity of the worship space while following distancing guidelines of separation between households, whichever is fewer.

A reminder that the province has made it a requirement that everyone attending in-person worship must wear a procedural mask – cloth masks may be worn in addition to the procedural mask, but at minimum a procedural mask should be worn.

All other guidelines as outlined in the Diocesan Guidelines for Re-Opening Churches are in effect, which would include: physical distancing, a record-log of attendees for contact tracing purposes, sanitization of hands and common touch places, no congregational singing, the use of 1 or 2 cantors who are at a greater distance from the congregation present, etc.

If you have not already indicated your parish's desire to re-open, please be in touch with my office as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me – sometimes it is easier to talk through some of the logistics than it is to email, so please do call to talk through any concerns.

Government updates can be found online at:

https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/progressive-regional-alert-and-intervention-system/level-4-maximum-alert-red/

Blessings,