



Very Reverend Daniel B. Carson

Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

Dear Brother in Christ,

I write today to provide you with updates and will continue to share with you information as needed.

Covid-19 Update

As you know, the CDC has recently issued new guidance that recommends universal indoor masking in areas with “substantial or high” levels of transmission. A link to the CDC’s county-level map can be found [here](#).

We continue to monitor the situation closely and will regularly provide you with updates on the current status and local restrictions.

Below is the current status of the jurisdictions within the Archdiocese of Washington. **Please take special note of the newly announced restrictions for Charles County.**

DC:

Mayor Bowser re-instituted a universal, indoor masking mandate for everyone, even those fully vaccinated, which took effect on July 31 at 5:00 a.m. The DC Health Department guidance implementing this mandate allows a person to remove their mask in their own office or when addressing an audience, provided the speaker (or singer) can maintain 6-feet of distance from the audience.

Maryland:

- Montgomery County re-instituted universal, indoor masking for everyone (even those fully vaccinated) in public locations, which took effect on August 7 at 12:01 a.m. As with DC, a person may remove their mask in their own office or when addressing an audience, provided the speaker can maintain 6-feet distance.
- Prince George’s County re-instituted universal, indoor masking for everyone (even those fully vaccinated) in public locations, which took effect on August 8 at 5:00 p.m. Unlike in DC and Montgomery County no exception exists for those addressing an audience.
- **Charles County has announced that it is also re-instituting universal, indoor masking for everyone (even those fully vaccinated) in public**

August 12, 2021 4:21 pm

locations, effective August 13 at 5:00 p.m. The text of the order is not yet available. We will follow up with any further guidance or clarifications once the order is published.

- Calvert and St. Mary's Counties both meet the CDC's threshold for "substantial" transmission, but these counties have not issued any new masking requirements. Pastors in these counties may, in their discretion, choose to require masking.
- Governor Hogan has stated that he is not considering a state-wide mask mandate at this time.

Pastors in those jurisdictions that require masking may, in their discretion, allow clergy, lectors, and cantors to remove their mask temporarily, if consistent with local guidance, during religious services at their parishes.

No Capacity Restrictions: Neither Maryland nor DC has indicated that any changes will be coming to indoor capacity restrictions. At present, churches may remain at full capacity.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates if any new restrictions are imposed locally.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see adw.org/coronavirus for information related to the coronavirus, adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/ for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and cathstan.org and elpreg.org for the *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office and the Pastoral Center, please let us know.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am
Sincerely in Christ,
Very Reverend Daniel B. Carson
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia