



**Office of the Bishop**

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## **Additional COVID-19 Restrictions for the Central Okanagan**

9 August 2021

Dear Pastors, Assoc. Pastors, Parish Staff and Parishioners of the Central Okanagan,

Greetings in the Lord!

As you know, there has been a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus, specifically the more infectious and more lethal Delta variant, in the Central Okanagan. Thus, the Medical Health Officer of Interior Health has issued additional restrictions to reduce transmission of the virus.

Therefore, effective immediately, the following COVID-19 protocols are in place for our parishes, parish offices and halls in West Kelowna, Kelowna, Lake Country and the Regional District of Central Okanagan:

1. Anyone attending Mass or visiting the parish office must carry out and pass a health check. An example is found here: <https://www.worksafefbc.com/en/resources/health-safety/posters/help-prevent-spread-covid-19-entry-check-workers?lang=en>. Anyone not feeling well should stay home.
2. Numbers: up to 50 people, that includes the priest, reader, soloist, musicians and volunteers, are allowed for Mass and any other organized indoor or outdoor gatherings.
3. Masks: mandatory for all people age 12 and older for indoor gatherings. Please remind people that their mask must cover both their nose and mouth.
4. Physical distancing: 2 metres for all those not of the same household.
5. Hand Sanitizers: readily available and to be used by all those entering church premises.
6. Ministers at the Altar: should be at the minimum wherever possible. This means, only one lector, and not having altar servers for instance.
7. Entrance/Exits: separate
8. Contact tracing: it is recommended that this be re-instituted.
9. Consider accommodating another 50 people in your parish hall as long as it is separate from the main body of the church and has its own separate entrance and exit.

The following link contains the recent COVID-19 restrictions:  
[https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/IB\\_COVID\\_Outbreak\\_6%20August.pdf](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/IB_COVID_Outbreak_6%20August.pdf)

I recognize that it will be difficult for people to go back to previous restrictions. This will call for more patience from everyone. It is also a good reminder about the importance of being fully vaccinated.

Let us pray that this is only a short-lived blip on the road ahead. God bless all of you.

Sincerely in Our Lord,



✘ Gregory J Bittman  
Bishop of Nelson