

# Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg Українська Католицька Архиепархія Вінніпегу

Re: COVID – 19 Pandemic

Directive # 19 (16 March 2022)

Prot. H/12/2022

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Слава Ісусу Христу!

To the Reverend Clergy and all the Lay Faithful  
of the Archeparchy of Winnipeg:

## A. Changes to the Public Health Order

The Government of Manitoba, in which our Archeparchy is located, in collaboration with the pertinent health authorities, has issued a very significant Public Health Order (PHO) that essentially ends all official safety restrictions that have been in place to varying degrees for almost two years.

The essential spirit of the very brief PHO can be expressed in these excerpts:

*“WHEREAS: [...] 4. I have determined that the public health challenges posed by COVID-19 **no longer justify the restrictions and requirements** set out in [previous] Orders. THEREFORE, I am making the attached Order **Terminating** Various Public Health Orders, as authorized under The Public Health Act. **March 14, 2022** Chief Provincial Public Health Officer [...] Dr. Brent Roussin”*

*“ORDER TERMINATING VARIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS: The following Orders made under The Public Health Act are **terminated** effective March 15, 2022: (b) the **Self-isolation and Contact Tracing** Orders made on February 14, 2022”*

## B. Changes to Archeparchial Protocols

1. As in all matters, mutual respect and charity are of paramount importance. Adjusting to the post-pandemic norms may require a different timeframe for each member of a parish congregation. Yes, the attendance “dispensation” was rescinded by the last

“Directives #18”. Therefore, in-person attendance in parish Liturgies on Sundays and other major Holidays is the required norm for members of the Faithful.<sup>2</sup>

2. Parishes and parish organizations are strongly encouraged to offer a **livestreaming** service - even if not interactive (*e.g. Zoom, Google Meet*) – for the sake of parishioners who otherwise would not be able to participate. This has proven to be a much-appreciated blessing for the sick and shut-ins.
3. Motivated by basic courtesy and respect for fellow parishioners – especially those that may be more vulnerable than others – those actually feeling **physically ill** or who suspect that they may be a carrier of some communicable illness should **not participate** in-person until the illness has passed.
4. **Social distancing** is no longer required. However, unnecessary bunching of participants at liturgies and meetings, should be avoided especially when the facility (church or hall) provides ample space. Furthermore, it is recommended that in churches and facilities where this is possible, that the practice of using a separate entrance and exit be maintained as this will also help avoid unnecessary crowding.
5. **Masks** are no longer required at parish events, but are still recommended when moving about. However, **Clergy** and **other assistants** (*e.g. altar servers, starshyj brat*) should wear them when serving in the Sanctuary – especially for Eucharistic liturgies when the Holy Gifts are exposed and Holy Communion will be distributed. If they are sufficiently distanced from the congregation, clergy may remove their mask when proclaiming the Gospel and preaching the Homily. Clergy should also wear a mask when visiting the sick and when administering Sacraments (*e.g. Baptism*) that require a close face-to-face proximity. (See point No. 9 below)
6. **Choirs** and krylosy can resume leading the responses for parish liturgies and other prayer events. However, they should respect the concepts expressed in points 3 and 4 above. In as much as possible, they should also choose a location in the church from which they can effectively fulfil their ministry while remaining comfortably distanced from the congregation. They too are not obliged to wear masks, however, a consensus may be reached by the choir director and the choir members, together with the pastor, by which reasonable norms regarding masks and other matters are established by which the choir will function in that parish in the performance of its important ministry.
7. One-per-person **reusable utensils** that are used only once for a liturgy<sup>3</sup> or **disposable** (wooden) **utensils** are to be used for the distribution of Holy Communion.
8. **Sanitizing** solutions and wipes should still be made readily available at appropriate stations in the church and parish facilities.
9. When any Sacrament or blessing calls for the symbolic action of breathing, only a waving of the hand, ripidion, or other appropriate item should be used.<sup>4</sup>

**10. These directives will be in effect until 30 April 2022.**

From the beginning of the coronavirus threat, much was spoken by both Church and secular leaders about the “new normal” that would follow the pandemic. Let us be proactive in guiding that new normal for our faith communities and for the wider society in which we live and for whom we are called by our Lord to be witnesses. The slow, but constant effort should be toward a maximum revitalization of life within our parishes that, God willing, will exceed that which existed prior to the surfacing of the pandemic. To be successful in fulfilling our Christian mandate (Matthew 28:18-20) we will have to weigh all things in wisdom and move boldly forward by the abundant grace of our Lord.

*Sincerely in Christ,*



*Most Rev. Lawrence Huculak  
Metropolitan*



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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset\\_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-termination-03142022.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-termination-03142022.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Canon 114, Particular Law of the Ukrainian Catholic Church (2018)

<sup>3</sup> The reusable spoons would be purified after the Liturgy and any remaining solution shall be disposed of in a manner appropriate for sacred objects.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Covid-19 Archeparchial Directives #2 (19 March 2020), General Norms No. 11.