

**ADDENDUM to  
Eparchial WorshipSafe Guidelines for the Province of Ontario  
(2021-04-16)**

**To all clergy and staff of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto & Eastern Canada in the Province of Ontario**

In an attempt to minimize the transmission of Covid-19, the provincial government announced further restrictions. The new measures come into effect on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and they will be in place until at least May 20, 2021.

While it remains our conviction that we offer an “essential service” and have demonstrated our ability to welcome the faithful safely given our stringent Eparchial WorshipSafe Guidelines, we must also recognize the serious nature of the current situation.

**Consequently, as of Monday, April 19, 2021, we introduce the following restrictions for all parishes in the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto & Eastern Canada in Ontario:**

1. Parishes must restrict church attendance to **10 people**, including priests hearing confessions and volunteers required to monitor capacity restrictions. This applies to both gatherings **indoors and outdoors**. Due to these measures, it may be that pastors/administrators may choose to temporarily suspend public access to Divine Liturgy and other services. All clergy are asked to include prayers and litany petitions for the health and well-being of parishioners and for those suffering from Covid-19.
2. Limited access to the church for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** and **private prayer** may be granted as long as it is possible to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people, indoors or outside the church. If that has been the practice, parishes may also distribute Holy Communion on Sunday throughout the afternoon.
3. **Weddings, funerals and baptisms** are restricted to 10 persons, including those who are involved in ministry (priest, cantor, etc.). First Holy Sacrament of Reconciliation and Solemn Holy Communion should be postponed at this time.
4. No meetings should take place in **parish halls or other church spaces** at this time. The only exception would be those deemed as essential services i.e. Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous Meetings, Food Bank distribution, etc. These activities should be restricted to 10 people and ensure that all appropriate health and safety measures are in place (use of masks, hand sanitizer, physical distancing, etc.). Virtual meetings should replace in-person meetings wherever possible.
5. Parish offices should continue to operate with only **essential staff** in the office. Employees should work remotely wherever possible. Parish offices should remain closed to the public with limited **essential appointments only**. Staff should take direction from the pastor regarding the local situation on the most prudent approach. In larger parishes, it may be possible to rotate staff if they cannot work remotely.

6. Please remind the faithful that the elderly, those with compromised immune systems or other health conditions should be strongly **encouraged to remain home.**
7. Livestreaming of services should continue where already established, and dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Liturgy remains in place.

Once again, we would like to remind all pastors/administrators/parish staff about the importance of adhering to robust health and safety measures on church premises. In addition to keeping our parishioners safe, every measure should be taken to protect our clergy, essential staff and any volunteers who are required to assist at this time.

Even with extremely limited numbers, we would like to stress how critically important it is for every parish to implement our Eparchial WorshipSafe Guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all.

We thank all of you for your ongoing diligence in implementing these health and safety measures in this critical period, and for adapting to this difficult situation once again.

Please continue to pray for all those who are sick and those caring for them.

Most Holy Mother of God save us! Пресвятая Богородице спаси нас!