

ADDENDUM to Eparchial Worship Safe Guidelines for the Province of Ontario (2022-03-21)

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

1. Effective Monday, March 21, 2022, the Government of the Province of Ontario has announced the end of public masking requirements in most non-medical settings. We anticipate that local municipalities will follow the lead of the province in removing bylaws requiring masks, but you have to verify with the local health authority. Accordingly, our churches, halls and offices will also no longer require masking, unless stipulated otherwise by municipal authorities. *(This change will be stressful for some members of our community and we ask that you continue to pastorally help those who are isolated, sick and afraid, as you have done throughout the pandemic. Some people will still want to wear masks in churches and offices, and they should not be discouraged from doing so.)*
2. On-line participation in Divine Liturgy is no longer considered a fulfillment of one's obligation for Sundays and Feasts, with the exception of those in poor health, who would be unable to attend church in normal circumstances.
3. The use of **individual chalices (for clergy) and individual spoons** for distribution of Holy Communion is to continue until further notice.
4. Only **non-contact veneration** of icons and crosses (e.g. for the Sunday of the Cross) is permitted (i.e. no kissing of sacred objects) and it is to continue until further notice.
5. The use of **hand sanitizer** upon entry to the church and/or parish hall remains a best practice and is encouraged. Therefore, it is recommended that sanitizing stations remain in place and signage regarding use of hand sanitizer continue to be posted in parishes at this time.
6. Parishioners should be encouraged to continue **self-screening for Covid-19** symptoms and stay home if they have any symptoms.
7. **Additional Information**
 - Starting on March 21, individuals aged 18 and older, who have received their Covid-19 booster shot and who are asymptomatic for Covid, do not need to self-isolate when they are in close contact with someone who tests positive for Covid-19 (including if the sick person is a member of their household). The self-isolation requirement is also lifted for those younger than 18 years old who are asymptomatic and who have had two Covid-19 vaccine doses. If you meet these criteria, for 10 days you must wear a mask in public, refrain from elective visits to medical settings and avoid physical contact with those who are vulnerable to Covid. Those, who do not meet the above criteria and who have a Covid-19 close contact, must continue to self-isolate according to current provincial regulations.

Isolation/monitoring requirements

- Individuals (vaccinated or not) with symptoms of COVID-19 are presumed to have COVID-19, whether or not this is confirmed by a Rapid Antigen/PCR Test and should self-isolate immediately.

International Travel.

Those returning from international travel (vaccinated or not) are reminded of the following:

- Individuals must wear a mask at all times in public spaces including all church premises for 14 days upon return to Canada.
- Individuals must maintain a list of all close contacts for 14 days upon return to Canada
- Individuals must monitor for signs and symptoms for COVID-19 for 14 days upon return to Canada