

**Commentary on Covid-19 Pandemic Safety Directives #6
Archeparchy of Winnipeg
30 October 2020**

A Provisionary^{*} commentary on Archeparchial Covid-19 Directives #6 in light of the shifting Pandemic situation in Manitoba and the most recent information and guidelines emanating from the **Manitoba Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC)** and the office of the designated **liaison between the Provincial Cabinet and Communities of Faith** (27 Oct 2020), following consultation with the clergy of the Archeparchy.

The directives within this Commentary will be effective immediately as of 30 October 2020.

1. Masks

Masks are to be worn by all those attending 'religious services' or any event held at church facilities. Even though the government directives permit the removal of the mask must when the participant is seated, it is strongly recommended that a mask be worn throughout the service.

Clergy too should wear masks – as well as cantor(s), readers and ushers and other personnel. Clergy, singers and readers may, if necessary, remove their mask at certain moments during their service, but only if distanced far from any other individual. The mask should be worn at times of movement – especially if the movement may bring them within close proximity to others.

If the singer(s) can sing with their masks, this would be appropriate. Other faithful may sing quietly, but with their masks on.

Clergy and other essential assistants during the service are strongly encouraged to wear their mask at all times keeping in mind that their comportment should not cause the faithful to refrain from receiving the Holy Eucharist or from coming to church altogether.

2. At the Altar

The 'Gifts' should be covered at all times except for those times when direct access is required. Even at the time of Consecration/Epiclisis the Gifts may remain covered as the intention and declared words of the priestly minister(s) is efficacious.

For the distribution of Holy Communion, appropriate wooden utensils that will function in lieu of metal spoons should be used. Actual wooden spoons are available from local stores or on line. Other wooden spoon-like utensils (including tongue depressors or craft sticks) are easily available stores where craft or medical supplies are sold. Toothpicks and similar items should not be used by reasons of safety and imagery.

^{*} *As the Government and Health Authority directives change, so too may the Directives for the Archeparchy*