

**Commentary 2 on Covid-19 Pandemic Safety Directives #6**  
**Archeparchy of Winnipeg**  
**2 November 2020**

Prot. H/96/2020

Having just issued a commentary to help clarify questions that arose due to the frequently shifting directives from government administrative and health officials – the situation has suddenly changed again. Cases of those testing positive around the province - particularly with the “Capital Region” - has compelled the government of Manitoba to make the precautionary decision to further restrict the movement and interaction of persons throughout the province.

Taking to heart the concern of our elected officials and healthcare professionals, the Archeparchy also wants to guide our faith community through the fluctuations of the pandemic. Therefore, until further notice, the following measures should be implemented in all our parishes and associated activities as of Monday morning, November 2, 2020.

1. The basic precautions that have been propagated since the early days of the pandemic should always be adhered to, i.e. - social distancing... frequent washing/sanitizing of hands... sanitizing used spaces... self-isolating (and/or seeking help) if covid-19 symptoms should appear... self-isolating upon returning from travel... wearing of masks when required... etc.
2. Other more particular instructions - Liturgical practices, pre-screening of participants, permitted numbers, etc. - will be found in previous Archeparchial Covid-19 Directives. Particular attention may be given to Directives #5 (26 May 2020) and Directives #6 (1 October 2020) and subsequent commentaries.

**3.** Based on the 30 October 2020 Manitoba Government **News Release**, the following change will be the norm for liturgical and pastoral activity within the Archeparchy of Winnipeg:

Parish gatherings as recently described in **Commentary No. 1 on Covid-19 Pandemic Safety Directives #6** (30 October 2020) must be limited as follows:

Parishes within the City of Winnipeg and “Capital Region” - **Red** Zone (“Critical Level”) shall limit the number of participants at Liturgical Functions or other “Religious Services” to **15% capacity** or **100 people** – “Whichever is lower”.

Parishes elsewhere in the Province – **Orange** Zone (“Restricted Level”) shall limit the number of participants at Liturgical Functions or other “Religious Services” to **20% capacity** or **250 people** – “Whichever is lower”.

4. Not a few have expressed some manner of fatigue over the continuous newsflashes about the patterns of the coronavirus throughout Canada. There are also numerous commentaries on various media platforms that either laud the efficacy of government restrictions and or bemoan the general reaction to Covid-19 as somewhat exaggerated. By our constancy in prayer, and by calm discussion among the members of our local faith communities, and not forgetting that Christ is perpetually present to His People, we should avoid any extreme position. By allowing fear to paralyze us or adopting a cavalier attitude toward the virus could both compromise the safety of our faithful and the integrity of the mission of our Church. All the faithful, under the leadership of their local pastors, are asked to continue in whatever way possible to not only maintain the life of the Church, but to even grow its mission in unique and new ways.

Let us support each other and grow in unity and faith to be a light of hope for one another and for our neighbours.

Most Rev. Lawrence Huculak  
Metropolitan

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\* The Capital Region includes the 16 Municipalities: the City of Winnipeg; the City of Selkirk; the Town of Stonewall; and the Rural Municipalities of Cartier, East St. Paul, Headingley, Macdonald, Ritchot, Rockwood, Rosser, St. Andrews, St. Clements, St. Francois-Xavier, Springfield, Taché, and West St. Paul. ([www.gov.mb.ca/mr/capreg/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/capreg/index.html))