



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Pastoral Center, 3940 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40213-1463
(502) 585-3291 | (502) 585-2466 (Fax) | archbishop@archlou.org

OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

May 3, 2021

Dear Father,

May God bless you during this holy Easter season! Most of this update deals with updated information regarding summer picnics, but I want to say a word about vaccines. I have been fully vaccinated, and I encourage all Catholics to do the same. Our Holy Father said that taking a vaccine “is about a moral choice because it is about your life but also the lives of others.” Taking a vaccine is an act of love and a contribution to the common good, and I encourage your support of vaccines with parishioners. For those who may continue to have concerns or questions, I have attached the nuanced and careful moral analysis presented by Archbishop Joseph Naumann and Bishop Kevin Rhoades of the USCCB Committees on Pro-Life Activities and Doctrine. Fortunately we are at a point where anyone 16 and over in the Commonwealth can easily obtain a vaccine.

The information below outlines the latest guidance concerning parish summer picnics and festivals. The Department for Public Health continues to stress the importance of following public health guidelines as a primary means to prevent new waves of COVID-19 cases. Among the precautionary measures is careful planning and monitoring of large public gatherings such as parish picnics and festivals.

Based on information currently available, and in consultation with the Priests’ Council of the Archdiocese, it is not anticipated that summer 2021 parish picnics and festivals will be able to return to the formats in use prior to COVID-19. The following is a summary of our current understandings and expectations for summer 2021. Additional updates will be shared as more information becomes available.

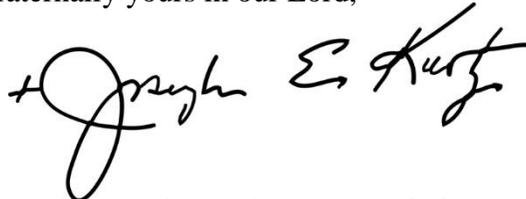
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| Contracts | For contracts that obligate a parish to pay for 2021 picnic/festival services, supplies, or other goods, the parish should request language that expressly allows for modification or cancellation of the agreement with reasonable notice and without financial penalty. |
| Venues | Outdoor locations, as compared to indoors, allow for better ventilation and physical distancing and should be used to the greatest extent practical for event preparations and participant activities. |
| Crowd Size | The Governor’s Office has announced that facemasks are no longer required for outdoor events of 1,000 people or less, while noting that face coverings remain recommended for unvaccinated individuals interacting with persons outside their households. Masks are still required indoors, and at outdoor events attracting more than 1,000 people. Social distancing guidelines between family groups is required both indoors and outdoors, regardless of crowd size. |
| Dinners | Drive-thru, curbside, carryout, delivery, and outdoor seating options are reasonably safe options when exercising proper health and safety protocols. Limited dine-in seating arrangements are currently permitted by Frankfort, but in most cases, occupancy is limited to 60% of normal capacity. Event organizers/volunteers would be responsible for promoting and monitoring applicable public health requirements regarding capacity limits, face coverings, social distancing, sanitizing, etc. |

- Raffles** Department of Charitable Gaming regulations do not permit raffles to be conducted entirely online. When raffle ticket sales occur online, the parish should manually fill out the ticket and send the actual stub (or its electronic image) to the purchaser by mail, email, text, or in-person. In-person raffle sales at a picnic/festival would need to observe proper safety precautions.
- Booths** Traditional picnic/festival booths pose public health challenges, particularly in monitoring and enforcement of COVID-19 safety protocols on social distancing between family households and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.
- Rides** Rides, inflatables, and similar offerings present inherent challenges with monitoring and enforcing social distancing in waiting lines and while participating in the activities, as well as with regular cleaning of highly touched surfaces.
- Beer Gardens** The Department of Alcohol Beverage Control is issuing licenses at this time. Traditional beer gardens, even in outdoor settings, present considerable challenges as parishes would need to promote, monitor, and enforce social distancing between persons from different households.
- Organizers** Picnic/festival organizers should be familiar with Frankfort’s latest “Healthy at Work” guidance, issued April 19. See [here](#). The document outlines minimum requirements for capacity attendance, social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, personal protective equipment, and training and safety. Public events such as picnics/festivals are subject to unannounced on-site inspections by health officials, and if deemed non-compliant with COVID-19 requirements, the event could be shut down.
- Volunteers** All picnic/festival volunteers should be trained on public health safety measures to be practiced in their roles. They should also be monitored during the event and reminded about the practice of these measures as necessary.
- Promotions** Event promotional materials and on-site signage should remind attendees of public health safety requirements, including but not limited to, face coverings and social distancing.

For any other questions on picnics or festivals, please contact Mr. Tink Guthrie, Vice Chancellor, at the Pastoral Center, 502-585-3291 or tguthrie@archlou.org.

Thank you for your planning and compliance on these matters. You are in my prayers.

Fraternally yours in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph E. Kurtz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville