



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

COVID-19: NAVIGATING MINISTRY EVENTS

with [Appendix I: At Home COVID-19 Health Screening Guide](#)
and

with [Appendix II: Participant Acknowledgment of Risk AND Commitment](#) form for Participant signature

We are grateful to God for His grace and provision.

Continuing with ministry in the midst of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic would not be occurring but for Him.

In our COVID-19 environment, in-person MINISTRY EVENTS must and can continue; they are critical to our continuing spiritual, mental, and emotional health. The goal with in-person events is to hold successful, safe, rejuvenating experiences. We are confident that, as members of the Body of Christ, God is giving us the grace to ensure the wellbeing of ourselves and others. **It's time to encounter the Lord!**

THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

COVID-19, a new type of coronavirus, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. Though the science behind COVID-19 continues to evolve, it is reported to be contagious, and is currently thought to spread predominantly from person-to-person contact. Further, it appears an individual may be infected, show no symptoms, but nonetheless be capable of spreading the virus. At present, the exact methods of virus spread and contraction are not fully understood. Further, there is no known treatment, cure, or vaccine. Evidence has shown that in some individuals, COVID-19 can cause serious/potentially life threatening illness, and even death. But as Colorado emerged from its 2020 stay-at-home/safer at home phase, prevention methods have been identified and can be taken.

As federal, state and local jurisdictions have monitored and evaluated COVID-19, state and local county/city agency guidance has been issued on day-to-day in-person interactions and advised practices. Consistent with this guidance, the Archdiocese, its ministries and its parishes are grateful for the interest in attending in-person ministry events and are committed to preventive practices when it comes to combatting the spread of COVID-19.

The Archdiocese, its ministries and its parishes have therefore adopted and follow applicable mandates, protocols and guidelines issued by those entities that are guiding in-person activities locally and nationally. But success requires disciplined cooperation by all; it is therefore incumbent upon participants to follow the protocols and guidelines outlined below, as well as any additional protocols that Ministry Event hosts identify at their local venue level as part of virus prevention measures.

How do we program success and safety for events? Success and safety are dependent on mutual respect, compassion, patience, discipline and attentive cooperation between ministry leaders, youth participants and their families, and adult participants.

Before an individual commits to personally participating in a Ministry Event, or having their minor child participate in a Ministry Event, they are asked to first carefully review the information, protocols and guidelines in this material, and then engage in the [Pre-Ministry Event At-Home COVID-19 Health Screening Guide](#) (see **Appendix I**) to determine whether attendance is advised. If an individual ultimately determines that he/she (or their minor child) can participate in the Ministry Event, the individual must then execute the [Participant Acknowledgment of Risk AND Commitment](#) form (see **Appendix II**).

Protocols & Guidelines

COVID-19 Ministry Event Programming

- **INDIVIDUAL HEALTH PRESCREENING BEFORE THE MINISTRY EVENT**
 - All individuals, including Ministry Event hosts, are to engage in a self-health pre-screening to determine whether their health is such that attending a Ministry Event is prudent. See **Appendix I, At-Home COVID-19 Health Screening Guide**.

- **YES, I HAVE DETERMINED ATTENDANCE IS APPROPRIATE**
 - If you have determined you and/or your minor child, as applicable, can attend the Ministry Event, you must execute the **Participant Acknowledgment of Risk AND Commitment** form (see **Appendix II**).

- **ARRIVAL AND MINISTRY EVENT ETIQUETTE**
 - **HAND WASHING; SANITIZER.** Participants are to wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and soap before touching any surfaces or participating in the Ministry Event gathering. Ministry Event organizers and volunteers are encouraged to supply hand sanitizer but given the variation in events/venues, Participants are asked to bring their own supply for personal use. Please see the following link to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/global-covid-19/handwashing.html>

 - **SOCIAL DISTANCING.** Social Distancing of a minimum distance of six (6) feet apart MUST be practiced at ALL times. If Social Distancing is not being consistently/respectfully observed, it is within the discretion of the Ministry Event host(s) to ask a Participant to leave, or to stop the Ministry Event entirely. For further discussion of the “whys” and the “whats” of Social Distancing, please see the following link to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

 - **MASKS/FACE COVERINGS.** Participants are to wear masks/face coverings that cover the mouth and nose at ALL times unless SUFFICIENT DISTANCE can be effectively maintained for extended period(s) during the Event and unless otherwise required under Colorado Executive Order. See the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regarding guidance and Colorado Governor Polis’ Executive Order D 2020 138 (in effect as of date of issuance): <https://covid19.colorado.gov/mask-guidance#:~:text=What%20is%20the%20statewide%20mandatory,within%20any%20public%20indoor%20space.>

 - **BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES.** Participants are to bring their own water/beverage bottles. Label your bottle(s) to prevent mix-up and accidental sharing.

 - **EQUIPMENT & APPAREL.** If applicable, there will be no shared equipment. Appropriate clothing/shoes are to be worn at all times appropriate for the Ministry Event and to minimize (if applicable) sweat transmitting onto equipment/surfaces.

 - **RESTROOMS.** If available at the venue, restrooms will be open but Social Distancing is to be observed.

- **DEPARTURE ETIQUETTE and POST MINISTRY EVENT GUIDELINES**
 - Participants are to continue to wear masks and observe Social Distancing upon departing the venue.

 - At the conclusion of the Ministry Event, Participants are encouraged to wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and soap, or use hand sanitizer, before and after touching any surfaces.

 - Participants are encouraged to immediately shower and launder their clothing upon returning home.

APPENDIX I (Page 1 of 1)

COVID-19 Ministry Event Programming

At-Home COVID-19 Health Screening Guide

To facilitate best practices and otherwise respect others also intending to participate in Ministry Events, individuals seeking to participate in a Ministry Event are to perform a pre-event self-health screening.

- **Recent close contact with a person with COVID-19.** Within 14 days of the Ministry Event, if you have had close contact with a person with COVID-19, please do not attend the Ministry Event; stay home and take care of yourself. We welcome your attendance at a subsequent event after the prescribed period of quarantine is over and you are clear!
- **Individual Body Temperature Check.** If an individual has a fever of 100.4 or above before he or she intends to leave to attend a Ministry Event, that person should remain at home. We look forward to seeing you at a later date when you are in good health!
- **Check for additional COVID-19 Symptoms.** If the individual seeking to participate is experiencing any of the symptoms below, please have the individual stay home and contact their medical care provider.
 - **Fever or chills**
 - **Cough**
 - **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
 - **Fatigue**
 - **Muscle or body aches**
 - **Headache**
 - **New loss of taste or smell**
 - **Sore throat**
 - **Congestion or runny nose**
 - **Nausea or vomiting**
 - **Diarrhea**

APPENDIX II (Page 1 of 2) COVID-19 Ministry Event Programming

Participant Acknowledgment of Risk AND Commitment To Abide By Event Ministry Protocols & Guidelines

Hosting Entity: Holy Name Catholic Church
[insert either Parish or Archdiocese of Denver (with ministry office noted), as applicable]

Ministry Event Title: All Ministry Events at Holy Name Catholic Church (to include Mass, Faith Formation, Small Groups, RCIA, etc.)

Date of Event: October 27, 2020-October 27, 2021

BACKGROUND

COVID-19, a new type of coronavirus, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. Though the science behind COVID-19 continues to evolve, it is reported to be contagious, and is currently thought to spread predominantly from person-to-person contact. Further, it appears an individual may be infected, show no symptoms, but nonetheless be capable of spreading the virus. At present, the exact methods of virus spread and contraction are not fully understood. Additionally, there is no known treatment, cure, or vaccine. Evidence has shown that in some individuals, COVID-19 can cause serious/potentially life threatening illness, and even death. As Colorado emerged from 2020's stay-at-home/safer at home phases, prevention methods have nonetheless been identified and can be taken. The Archdiocese, its ministries, and its parishes, have therefore adopted and follow applicable mandates, protocols and guidelines issued by federal, state and local jurisdictions that are guiding in-person activities locally and nationally. Successful in-person interaction nonetheless requires disciplined cooperation by all; it is therefore incumbent upon Ministry Event Participants to follow the COVID-19 Ministry Event Protocols & Guidelines.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK

The Archdiocese, its ministries and its parishes cannot prevent Participants from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19, or any other virus or disease, while attending a Ministry Event. **It is simply not possible to prevent against the presence of the virus.** If an individual chooses to participate in a Ministry Event, the Participant/Participant's family members may be exposed to and/or be at increased risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19, or any other virus or disease. **Participant, either individually or on behalf of Participant's minor child, as applicable (collectively Participant) therefore acknowledges that Participant's attendance at the Ministry Event is of such value to the Participant that Participant is voluntarily choosing to participate in the Ministry Event at Participant's own risk.** The Archdiocese of Denver and/or hosting Parish, as applicable, is not responsible if a Participant/Participant's family contracts COVID-19 whether during or around the period of Participant's attendance at the Ministry Event.

COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW MINISTRY EVENT PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES.

Before and during a Ministry Event, **Participant commits to abide by** the COVID-19 Ministry Event Protocols & Guidelines, including the At-Home COVID-19 Health Screening Guide.

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COVID-19 Ministry Event Programming

Participant Acknowledgement of Risk AND
Commitment To Abide By Event Ministry Protocols & Guidelines

(cont'd)

Participant, either individually, or as the Parent/Guardian for the Participant minor child, acknowledges and commits as follows:

1. I have read and I understand the above Background, Acknowledgment of Risk, and Commitment to Abide by Ministry Event Protocols & Guidelines concerning COVID-19 and associated risks.
2. Participating in the Ministry Event is of such value to me/my family, I choose to accept the risk of contracting COVID-19 for myself/my child, and/or other family members.
3. I have read, I understand, and I commit to abide by the Ministry Event Protocols & Guidelines including the At-Home COVID-19 Health Screening Guide.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND COMMITTED TO:

Participant Name (print):

Participant Signature:

only if Participant is age 18 or older

Date:

Parent/Guardian Name (print):

only if Participant is age 17 or under

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:
