

NH Places of Worship Guidance Capacity Update

The State just revised its New Hampshire COVID-19 guidance for Places of Worship to remove the 50% capacity restriction that has been in place since last year. The Diocese of Manchester also will be removing its 50% capacity limit. Please note, however, that in keeping with the guidance still in place from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **attendees who are not part of the same immediate household must continue to be seated at least 6 feet apart**. So while the overall capacity maximum has been eliminated, the practical reality with 6-foot distancing in place is that attendance capacity still will be far less than 100%. Of course, the other requirements, such as mask wearing, remain in place.

Updated Quarantine and Screening Guidance

Based on new guidelines from the State of New Hampshire, we have updated our quarantine and screening guidance:

1. If an individual has had close contact with another who has either confirmed or suspected COVID-19, then self-quarantine, or exclusion from attending Mass or other in-person parish events is not required if either of the following apply:
 - a. They have been fully vaccinated, i.e., 14 days have elapsed since they received the second dose for a two-dose vaccine (e.g., Pfizer or Moderna), or 14 days have elapsed since they received a single-dose vaccine (e.g., Johnson and Johnson).
 - b. They have previously tested positive for active COVID-19 infection (by PCR or antigen testing) in the last 90 days.

However, they still need to monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19, practice social distancing, avoid social and other group gatherings, always wear a face mask when around other people, and practice good hand hygiene at all times. If they develop COVID-19 symptoms, they should contact their healthcare provider and self-isolate until cleared by their provider.

2. Domestic travel within the U.S. no longer requires self-quarantine or exclusion from in-person Mass upon return to NH (regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status), this includes domestic travel to U.S. territories. People who travel internationally, or on a cruise ship, are still required to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival to NH, unless they meet one of the exceptions noted above for those fully vaccinated or had a previous positive test in the last 90 days.