



11800 S Military Lane | Portland, Oregon | 97219
T: 503-636-5613 | F: 503-636-5616
www.diocese-oregon.org

Diocese of Oregon COVID guidelines – update July 27, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

News regarding the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19 has raised questions from folks regarding the details in our May 21, 2021, [Guidelines for the Reopening of Parishes](#). We are watching closely as California and other states are beginning to reinstate mask mandates for indoor spaces. As of today, July 27, 2021, our diocesan guidelines reflect the guidelines and protocols of the State of Oregon.

In the event that the State of Oregon or its counties change their restrictions, **those restrictions will override our diocesan guidelines**. Yesterday [Multnomah County issued an update](#) “strongly recommending” that people wear masks when indoors. This update takes precedence over diocesan guidelines and now applies to our parishes and missions in Multnomah County. Therefore, parishes and missions located in Multnomah County are strongly recommended to wear masks indoors.

The latest reports of the Delta variant confirm that there are now break-through infections (fully vaccinated people becoming infected by the Delta variant). Some of our congregations continue to follow stricter guidelines than those of the state or county. These decisions are supported as they reflect the specific context of each congregation. However, protocols may not be relaxed beyond those of the diocese, state, or county.

Individuals who are not vaccinated comprise over 99% of those who contract the Delta variant. Once infected, the unvaccinated are more prone to serious illness and potential death. Please continue encouraging folks to get vaccinated; share information on where to get vaccinations and share our vaccination stories to help dispel misinformation about the vaccine.

We are called to care for each other as well as ourselves. The virus has no regard for our political, social, or religious affiliations. The measures we take to protect others will protect ourselves as well. When in doubt as to protocols, wear a mask, and remember to wash your hands.

In Christ,

Bishop Diana