

Summary of the Bishop's June 24 Directions Regarding Reopening of Churches

- 25% maximum capacity.
- Strict distancing
 - People from same home may sit together.
 - All others must be 6 feet apart – this overrides the 25% rule.
 - Congregational or choral singing not recommended – but if done, distancing must be 12 feet.
- Everyone must be masked.
- Hand sanitizer must be readily available and freely used.
- Worship spaces must be disinfected between gatherings or left dormant for a full week between each service.

The Holy Eucharist

1. Place the communion wafers (not pieces of “real” bread) on a paten, covered with a linen, and placed on the altar to the side of the fully-masked celebrant, outside the direction of his or her speaking voice, with only the priest’s host exposed. After the breaking of the bread, the priest’s host would be consumed by the celebrant alone, and not shared. A small amount of wine should also be consecrated, and consumed by the celebrant alone.
2. Immediately before distributing the bread to the people, the celebrant should wash his or her hands with soap and warm water in the sight of the people. As people approach the communion station, appropriately distanced, hand sanitizer should be available so that they may clean their hands immediately before receiving the host. The celebrant should regularly re-sanitize his or her hands while administering communion. Thoroughly cleaned hands will not pass disease.
3. Both the celebrant and all communicants should be masked throughout the eucharist. People should receive the host on their hands and then step back until they are appropriately distanced before lowering their mask to consume the host.
4. For the time being, the consecrated bread should be touched only by the celebrant, and only administered by the celebrant, and not by other priests, deacons or eucharistic ministers.