



**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**  
**Updated Directives During the Covid-19 Pandemic**  
**For the weekend of July 10-11, 2021**  
**In light of updated Archdiocese of Newark Directives**  
Full RCAN directives can be found at [www://rcan.org](http://rcan.org)

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### Introduction

Given the reinstatement by the Bishops of New Jersey of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and the lessening of restrictions from the state, the following is provided as an immediate update to the May 25 directives.

**Still in effect:** Masks will no longer be required for fully vaccinated persons. If not fully vaccinated, persons are strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidance and wear a face mask in public settings. Masks are still required on public transit and in health care settings, prisons, child-care facilities and schools, among other places. People will no longer be required to socially distance indoors or outdoors, although unvaccinated persons should continue to maintain a safe distance from others.

These directives apply to all indoor and outdoor events.

1. **LITURGICAL MINISTERS** All ministries may return to full service – altar servers, lectors, ushers, greeters and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Masks are no longer required for all vaccinated ministers, including those distributing Communion (Priests, Deacons, and EMs). However, masks may be worn for those who prefer to wear one during the liturgy.
2. **COMMUNION** While Communion on the tongue is now permitted, for the safety of the priests, ministers and other communicants, we encourage continued reception of communion in the hand. At this time, Communion from the cup should not be distributed to the assembly.
3. **SIGN OF PEACE** The invitation to share the Sign of Peace should continue. Parishioners could be reminded that it is not required to touch during the sign of peace.
4. **OFFERTORY COLLECTION** Ushers may take up the collection at the proper time or baskets may be placed at the entrance of the church for the collection. (Beginning July 17, 2021)
5. **PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS** The procession to present the gifts of bread and wine and the collection can be resumed. (Beginning July 17, 2021)
6. **BAPTISMAL FONTS** Baptismal fonts and holy water receptacles may be filled.
7. **MUSIC** Vaccinated music ministers (cantors, choirs, etc.,) do not require masks or shields. Music ministers who are not vaccinated should wear a mask. All musical instruments are permitted. Hymnals are now permitted.
8. **SANITIZING** The cleaning and sanitizing of churches and common spaces should be done regularly. It is not required after every liturgy.
9. **PARISH MEETINGS** Parish meetings in person may resume. Those vaccinated are not required to wear masks for indoor meetings nor are they required to maintain social distancing. The same recommendations for Mass apply to those not vaccinated.