



Response to Coronavirus

Parish Ministries & Events

DIOCESE of ARLINGTON

GUIDE for PASTOR

December 11, 2020

(Changes based on the issuance of Executive Order 72 on December 10, 2020.)

The following guidelines are to assist pastors as they execute ministries and events in Phase 3 of Virginia's reopening during the pandemic, available here: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Forward-Virginia-Phase-Three-Guidelines-December-2020.pdf>

Ministries and Events include but are not limited to:

* Sporting events, camps, work camp, and scouting events are addressed in Guide-School & Youth Activities During Phase 3

- Wedding Receptions
- Funeral Receptions
- Indoor Youth & Young Adult Groups
- Going-away Parties
- Prayer Groups
- Fraternity Events (e.g., Knights of Columbus)

Guiding Principles.

These principles should guide the design and execution of ministries and events such as the ones above:

- Social gatherings should be limited to 10 participants.
- Establish directions and practices for physical distancing.
- Limit the occupancy of spaces to ensure that six feet of physical distance can be maintained.
- Those in the same household are not expected to maintain six feet social distancing.
- Put chairs out in advance that are in groups and that are spaced apart. Having them out in advance will guide people to behave a certain way and sit with physical distancing.
- Provide clear communication and signage for physical distancing.
- Attendees should follow the Commonwealth's current directives on face coverings. All persons aged 5 and older are expected to wear a face covering in indoor public spaces in accordance with the revised Executive Orders 63, 67 & 72. **Executive Order 72 now includes the directive that All individuals in the Commonwealth aged five and older must cover their mouth and nose with a face covering, as described and recommended by the CDC, when outdoors and unable to maintain at least six feet of physical distance from other individuals who are not Family members.**
- Provide a place for attendees to wash hands with soap and water, or provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Post signage at the entrance that states that no one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, or known exposure to a COVID-19 case in the prior 14 days, is permitted in the facility.
- Practice routine cleaning and disinfection of high-contact areas and hard surfaces.

For Events with Food Service.

These principles are not specifically in the Phase 3 Guidelines but are inferred for one's consideration:

- Buffets may be open for self-service, with continuous monitoring by trained staff required at food lines, and serving utensils must be changed hourly during peak meal times. Facilities must provide hand sanitizer at buffets, and employees and patrons must use barriers (e.g. gloves or deli tissue) when touching utensils.
- Consider pre-plated food, that is have individual food items on individual plates.
- Have drinks pre-served in cups that are grab-and-go.
- Avoid line queuing by having more than one food table and more than one drink table.
- Use disposable dishes and utensils.
- Have hand sanitizer dispensers around for convenience.
- Participants or staff working in food service must wear face coverings and disposable gloves.
- Consider directing participants to bring their own for consumption by one's own family.