



COVID-19 Protocols – Updated October 12, 2022

This is the 11th update the Diocese of St. Augustine has released since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, and it replaces all previous versions of diocesan guidelines. All restrictions have been lifted related to COVID-19 in our parishes, but the bishop directs pastors to exercise discretion in following measures appropriate to each parish setting. Parishioners are asked to take the necessary precautions they feel most comfortable with for their own health and safety.

Bishop Erik Pohlmeier and members of his advisory team will continue to monitor updates on COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The diocese which encompasses 17 counties of northeast and northcentral Florida, relies on the CDC for guidance in shaping its COVID-19 protocols and guidelines.

The CDC ranks the transmissibility of COVID-19 by county, and they update the information on their website weekly. They recommend that individuals:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, including recommended boosters.
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>)
- Avoid contact with people who are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.
- If you are at a high risk of serious illness, consult your healthcare provider.
- Get tested if you have symptoms.

Visit (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>) for more CDC recommendations.

If you are exposed to COVID-19, please review the CDC guidance by visiting:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html>.

Parishes are encouraged to continue to provide hand sanitizer, face masks, and disinfecting wipes for those who wish to use them.

**Approved by Most Rev. Erik T. Pohlmeier
Bishop of St. Augustine
October 12, 2022**