

ADDENDUM to Eparchial WorshipSafe Guidelines for the Province of Ontario (2022-01-03)

To all clergy and staff of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto & Eastern Canada in the Province of Ontario

In response to recent trends that show a rapid increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations, the Government of Province of Ontario is temporarily moving into **Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen with modifications**. As of **January 5, 2022 at 12:01 a.m.** the following measures will be in place for at least 21 days (until January 27) subject to trends in public health and provincial healthcare system. In these updated measures:

A. Weddings, funerals, religious services, rites and ceremonies are permitted under the following conditions:

- indoor services are limited up to 50 per cent the capacity of the room provided physical distancing of two metres is maintained. All other WorshipSafe guidelines and especially, measures of self screening, contact tracing, mask wearing and hand sanitizing must continue.
- outdoor services are limited to the number of people who can maintain two metres distance

B. Parish Halls

No meetings, receptions or rentals to the third party should take place in parish halls or other church spaces during the implementation period of **Step 2 with modifications**.

For most current information on exemptions, please, refer to the Ontario Government website <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/public-health-measures>. In order to confirm that certain activity is exempt (i.e. food sales) you should consult with local health authorities, before proceeding.

C. General Remarks

- As in the past, please ensure that all WorshipSafe Guidelines are followed. The faithful should be reminded not to congregate in large numbers in or around the church before or after services.
- Livestreaming of services should continue where this practice is already established and the dispensation from the Sunday Eucharist continues. The elderly, those with compromised immune systems or other health

conditions should be reminded to evaluate risks of any outings, including attendance at church.

- Parish offices should operate with only essential staff physically present in the office. Employees should work remotely wherever possible. Staff should take direction from the pastor/administrator regarding the most prudent approach, given the local situation. In larger parishes, it may be possible to rotate staff if they cannot work remotely.
- Please continue to take great care in implementing robust health and safety measures in the rectory and office. In addition to keeping our parishioners safe, every measure should be taken to protect our clergy, essential staff and any volunteers who are required to assist at this time.

D. Self-isolation update (NEW).

(Reference: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001386/ontario-updating-public-health-measures-and-guidance-in-response-to-omicron>).

- For anyone who tests positive for Covid-19, Ontario has also changed the required isolation period based on growing evidence that generally healthy people with Covid-19 are most infectious in the two days before and three days after symptoms develop. Individuals with Covid-19 who are vaccinated, as well as children under 12, will be required to **isolate for five days** following the onset of symptoms. Members of their household with whom they have had contact are also required to isolate with them. Isolation can end after five days if they are symptom free for at least 24 hours. All public health and safety measures, such as masking and physical distancing, are to be followed. Non-household contacts are required to **self-monitor for ten days**. Individuals who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or immunocompromised will be required to **isolate for 10 days.**"

Additional questions can be directed to the Fr. Zenon Walnyckyj - Chancellor 905-320-3974 or Fr. Andrew Onuferko - Vicar General 416-371-4531