

## Indoor Gathering Recommendations during COVID

In a spirit of communion, each member of the Catholic community is responsible for safeguarding the welfare of others especially the most vulnerable. Older adults are considered a high risk population due to multiple chronic conditions and limited knowledge of the effective immune response to the COVID vaccine. Attentive to the common good, we ask you to please consider these recommendations as you create plans for re-gathering the older adults in your parish community.

**Note:** It's important to let senior group members know in advance what safety practices will be in use prior to an indoor gathered event. Public gatherings may include those who are vaccinated and those who are not vaccinated. Protecting the most vulnerable/at-risk attendees is the primary concern.

**Modify the layout** of the room to accommodate space consideration to allow social distancing.  
(six feet is recommended)



### **Masks:**

- Let members know in advance if masks will be required; consider requiring masks since immunity or vaccination status may be unknown.
- Have new masks on hand for those who may have forgotten theirs.



### **Behavior:**

- Avoid singing, shouting indoors to reduce respiratory particles being spread.
- No physical contact--discourage handshakes, hugging or close physical contact.



### **Hygiene:**

- Have hand sanitizer readily available (60% alcohol) for frequent use.



### **Shared Food:**

- Limit food and beverage service as people will need to remove masks.
- Avoid "self-serve" options.
- Consider prepackaged items.



Maintain a sign-in sheet with participant contact information in case contact tracing is needed .

*These recommendations are presented for your consideration after a review of Federal, County and local guidelines of providers serving older adults. Because of a growing local surge of COVID, health experts are concerned that the virus variants can be spread to and by those who are vaccinated or not vaccinated. In an abundance of caution, medical experts suggest the wearing of masks in indoor spaces with ten or more unrelated persons present.*