

Parish-Level Decision-Making Guidelines for Holding In-Person Services During a Pandemic

1. When we are empowered by the Diocese to make a parish-level decision concerning holding or suspending in-person services during a pandemic, we should factor in the active case rate in our area (town/city and county).
2. Using the CDC travel thresholds, the hard cut off for holding in-person services is Level 4. This corresponds to the CDC position of not advising travel to areas with an active COVID case rate over 500 per 100k population.
3. Making the decision to hold or suspend in-person services should be made factoring the trend of active case rate while we are at risk Level 3. Specifically:
 - a. If cases are rising past the midway point of Level 3, then we should look to suspending in-person services
 - b. If cases are declining past the midway point of Level 3, then we can entertain recommencing in-person services etc...

Four Levels of Risk (Based on CDC Travel Advisory Risk Thresholds*)

Level 4: Very high level of COVID-19 (>500 cases/100k)
Services suspended

Level 3: High level of COVID-19 (100-500 cases/100k)
Outdoor services are to be preferred
Fully vaccinated may attend indoor services
Unvaccinated should not attend indoor services
COVID protocols required, e.g., masking and distancing
No coffee hours held
Priestly intinction optional

Level 2: Moderate level of COVID-19 (50-99 cases/100k)
Outdoor services are to be preferred
COVID protocols advised
Distanced coffee hours permitted
Priestly intinction

Level 1: Low level of COVID-19 (0-49 cases/100k)
Common cup communion
Prudent coffee hours allowed
COVID protocols not required

* Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/how-level-is-determined.html>