



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL PASTORS AND ASSOCIATE PASTORS, DEACONS AND PARISH MINISTERS

FROM: MONSIGNOR MURRAY KROETSCH
CHANCELLOR

DATE: 9 JULY 2020

RE: FACE COVERINGS MANDATED

On July 6, 2020, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo passed a By-Law (Number 20-036) requiring the wearing of a face mask or shield in all public places in the Region, including places of public worship. This law comes into force and effect on July 13, 2020. The same By-Law has already been in effect for several weeks in Wellington County. The City of Hamilton will be considering enacting the same By-Law in the coming week. Other regions may follow.

Therefore, in the Region of Waterloo, and in the County of Wellington, it is required that masks or face coverings be worn during Mass and other events in our Parish churches. Persons who contravene this By-Law are liable to fines not exceeding \$1,000. Therefore, all Pastors where this By-Law is in effect, are asked to inform their parishioners of the By-Law and, to the best of their ability, ensure that parishioners are wearing face coverings or masks. Pastors are not required to enforce the law, but are required to inform their parishioners of the law and encourage compliance, recognising that there may be some exceptions due to health related issues. It is our understanding that the Priest and the Lector do not need to wear a face covering when exercising their ministry in the sanctuary, with the required distance from the assembly.

Although our Diocesan COVID-19 Guidelines do not require that the Priest or Eucharistic Minister wear a face covering when distributing Communion, it seems advisable at this time, in view of more recent directives from the health authorities, that they do so, even though there is no dialogue during this sacred moment.

Parishioners are to obtain their own masks; however, if Parishes wish to have some masks on hand, these may be purchased from the Chancery Office, by contacting Larry Lamanes (llamanes@hamiltondiocese.com).