



## DIOCESE OF GAYLORD

---

611 WEST NORTH STREET  
GAYLORD, MI 49735  
PHONE: 989.732.5147  
FAX: 989.705.3589

DATE: July 10, 2020

TO: Priests, Pastoral Administrators, Deacons, Seminarians

FROM: Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley *+ Walter A. Hurley*

RE: Requirement to Wear Masks (Face Coverings)

### **NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER REQUIRES MASKS IN ANY INDOOR PUBLIC SPACES**

We have received notice that Governor Gretchen Whitmer has signed an executive order this morning that will go into effect on Monday, July 13, 2020. **This executive order requires that individuals wear a face covering when in any indoor public space, and in outdoor public spaces that are not able to accommodate social distancing.** I expect that all of our parishes will comply with this requirement and properly instruct your parishioners of this protocol, even though we find it to be difficult.

To prepare for this, please review today's Executive Order, which can be found at:

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2020/07/10/file\\_attachments/1492866/EO%202020-147%20Emerg%20order%20-%20Masks.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2020/07/10/file_attachments/1492866/EO%202020-147%20Emerg%20order%20-%20Masks.pdf)

It is important to note that:

- As has been the practice to date, priests and altar servers may remove their face coverings while in the sanctuary, with the exception of during the distribution of the Eucharist.
- Parishioners are required to wear a mask to celebrate Mass, but can remove them temporarily to receive the Eucharist.
- The requirement to wear a face covering does not apply to certain individuals, including those younger than five years old. The additional specifications for which individuals are not required to wear a face covering can be found in the Executive Order.

Thank you for your continued concern for the care and safety of your people; I know these are difficult times and I am here to support you in every way I can.