



Diocese of Kamloops
BISHOP'S OFFICE

Memorial of St. Peter Claver, September 9, 2021

Dear Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Diocese of Kamloops,

On Tuesday, September 7th announcements were made by the Province of British Columbia and the Provincial Health Officer, that all Faith Based, Spiritual and Worship Practices are exempt from the requirement to provide Proof of Vaccination.

I am very grateful to all Priests, Parish Staff, Volunteers and Parishioners for your patience and understanding as we took the time to obtain clarity on the upcoming requirements for the various upcoming meetings, programs and events that take place in our parish communities. As we navigate through the weeks and months ahead, I ask for your continued support and efforts to provide a safe and healthy environment to all those entrusted to our care.

The following is Guidance for all in the Diocese of Kamloops:

- There are no capacity limits or restrictions on indoor or outdoor religious gatherings and worship services. Proof of Vaccination is not required.
- There is no requirement for Proof of Vaccination for any of the following:
 - Any indoor organized events with less than 50 people - this will likely suffice for 90% of events at parishes
 - RCIA or ALPHA Programs
 - Adult & Children Faith Formation Programs
 - Bible Study Programs
 - Prayer Groups
 - Clergy Study Days and/or Meetings
 - Finance, Pastoral Council and or Parish Leadership Meetings
 - CWL and Knights of Columbus Meetings
 - SERRA Club Meetings
 - Rachel's Vineyard
 - Choir practice

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- Youth Groups and activities
- Indoor Youth Recreational Sports for people 19 years or younger
- Proof of Vaccination will be required to enter the following: Social gatherings and/or events with 50 or more people. For example: Wedding/Funeral receptions, organized parties, conferences, and workshops that are organized and take place within church halls and/or centres.
- For information on how each organization can [verify proof of vaccination click here](#).

The PHO continues to advise and encourage vaccinations, to wear a mask, and have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place (hand sanitization station, practice routine cleaning and disinfection of areas, respect others by social distancing, stay home if you are sick, and get tested). [Guidelines for faith-based organizations](#) to keep your congregation and community members safe.

For current and provincial restrictions and your local Health Authority please see the following links. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>; <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/provincial-and-regional-restrictions/> and <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/covid-19-information#testing-and-results#trusted-info#northern-health>

Thank you for your continued patience as we adapt to the ongoing updates. May the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph, and St. John Vianney continue to protect us and accompany us through this challenging time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



✝ Joseph Phuong Nguyen
Bishop of Kamloops