



## Sacramental Guidelines for Reopening

# Communion to the Sick or Homebound

- If the visit is in a hospital environment, follow the hospital directives regarding personal care (washing hands, wearing of masks, etc.).
- If the visit is in a home, follow the guidelines below:
  - Ministers should limit themselves to only a few (2 or 3) calls in one afternoon. However, each home requires a separate pyx for the hosts to be distributed in that home.
    - This is as a precaution to avoid any cross contamination between homes / sites.
    - If there is more than one person domiciling in the home and is among the vulnerable population (for example a husband and wife who are either both homebound or the spouse of the one who is sick), they may both receive Holy Communion.
  - Ministers should monitor their own health:
    - The minister should take his/her temperature before leaving for the church to retrieve Holy Communion;
    - If there is a temperature, or the minister feels any indications of illness, the visit should be rescheduled.
  - The pyx should be wiped with a disinfecting cloth before retrieving Holy Communion from the church. It must be dried before the host is placed inside.
  - Both the minister and the person being visited should be masked.
  - The minister should wash his/her hands or use a hand sanitizer immediately before entering the home.
  - Avoid any physical contact with the person during the visit.
  - The Minister of Care should maintain six (6) ft. of social distance during the visit, except when approaching the person in order to give Holy Communion.
  - In order to minimize the time spent (which minimizes either person possibly infecting the other), Ministers of Care should use a shortened Rite as provided for in *Pastoral Care of the Sick*, no. 40a.
    - Introduce and pray the Lord's Prayer;
    - Give the Invitation to Communion ("Behold the Lamb of God...") and allow the person to respond ("Lord, I am not worthy...");
    - Give the person Holy Communion;
    - Allow for some silent prayer or a Prayer of Thanksgiving;
    - Conclusion.
  - Both the minister and the person being visited are to sanitize their hands before giving/receiving Holy Communion.
  - Holy Communion is only to be given in the hand.
  - The minister is to approach the person to give Holy Communion and then step back to six (6) ft. of social distance.
  - Turn away from the recipient while they take off mask and consume the host.
  - The person receiving Holy Communion is to undo one side of the mask, letting it hang from the other ear, consume the host and then replace the one side of the mask.
- The minister should sanitize his/her hands immediately after the visit.
- The pyx should be purified per usual, and then wiped with a disinfecting cloth.
- The parish must keep an accurate record of home visits conducted by each minister. This is to facilitate contact tracing in case of an infection or exposure.