Diocese of Rockford

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Office of the Bishop

May 18, 2021

Dear Monsignor/Father,

I write this letter to you today to inform you that effective immediately, in accordance with the current guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Illinois, fully vaccinated laity and clergy are no longer required to wear masks or social distance. This applies to both sacramental and non-sacramental gatherings. However, accommodations are to be made to address the needs of those who are not fully vaccinated, and those who may feel more comfortable seated around others who are wearing masks.

At this time, priests, deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist should continue to wear a mask as they distribute Holy Communion.

Please note that no one is to be asked about their vaccination status or to document that status. The cooperation and good will of all is presumed in this matter.

This new guidance does not apply to our Catholic schools. Inasmuch as the academic year will be ending in the next two weeks, our schools are asked to continue with the protocols it has been implementing regarding mask wearing and social distancing.

Because guidance for public health and safety during this time of pandemic changes rapidly, I ask for your continued good leadership and pastoral guidance in assisting the faithful without regard to whether they are vaccinated or not, to adapt to these changes with all Christian charity.

Except as revised by this letter today, the guidance I issued on May 13, 2021 remains in effect and will continue to be updated in the coming weeks as appropriate.

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This letter will be shared today with all principals and superintendents, department heads, business managers, and Regional DREs. With thanks for your continued cooperation and assistance during this time, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ David J. Malloy

David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford