

**COVID-19 – UPDATED**  
**Guidance and Directives to Schools and Parishes**  
**3.13.2020 6:00pm**

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Further to Cardinal Sean's announcement today, we are providing **updated** guidance and additional details to parishes and schools:

- All Masses and, except as provided below, religious services in all Archdiocesan parishes, missions, and campus ministries are suspended until further notice. **This suspension begins at 4:00pm on Saturday afternoon, March 14. To be clear, there are to be no vigil Masses.**
- The Cardinal has issued a **dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass** during this time to the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Boston.
- Baptism, Confirmations, weddings and funerals may proceed but attendance should be limited to only immediate family.
- All other social events, fundraising activities, or other functions should be canceled or postponed until further notice.
- All field trips, service trips, youth group trips and retreats should be canceled or postponed until further notice.
- Private Masses may continue.
- Parish offices will remain open during this time.
- The Archdiocesan Pastoral Center will remain open during this time.
- Faith formation and related activities have been suspended until further notice.
- Extraordinary ministers will suspend services to nursing homes, private homes, and hospitals until further notice.
- **Archdiocese of Boston parish schools and Archdiocesan elementary and high schools will be closed** for two weeks from Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 27. Going forward we will consider whether this period needs to be extended.
  - All Catholic schools are urged to make their best effort to provide ongoing learning and provide meals to any students eligible for free or

reduced priced lunch. These meals should be offered to students without entering the building; box meals are allowed.

- Schools should take advantage of this time to ensure their custodial personnel or cleaning services conduct a thorough cleaning and disinfection of the entire facility.

The events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic can be very stressful for all, and especially for our brothers and sisters who are working on their respective recoveries and others in need. In an effort to continue to provide spiritual and community support to these individuals, please note:

- Regularly scheduled recovery support group (such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Al-Anon) meetings may continue.
- Food pantries and soup kitchens should remain open at this time.
- We will continue to offer the Anointing of the Sick by clergy.

Across all of these operations, comply with [CDC guidelines](#), including special consideration for meetings with high risk individuals (limit gatherings to no more than 10) and following the usual practices of good hygiene:

- Frequent hand washing (using hand sanitizers with 60% alcohol when soap and water are unavailable).
- Protecting your coughs and sneezes with tissues disposed of immediately, or coughing into your elbow if tissues are not available.
- Cleaning and disinfecting commonly used surfaces often.
- Avoiding contact with people who are ill, if possible.
- Maintaining a distance of six feet from others.

Please share the above-noted CDC guidelines with the various outside groups who use your parish space and encourage them to follow basic hygiene and cleaning practices when using parish facilities.

For questions please contact [corona@rcab.org](mailto:corona@rcab.org).