



# Diocese de Hearst-Moosonee Diocese

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Date: March 21, 2022  
To: Parishes, priests and deacons  
From: Sebastien Groleau, Chancellor  
Re: Update as of March 21, 2022

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The following are some suggestions regarding attitudes to the changes announced by the Provincial Government regarding the lifting of certain emergency measures in relation to the ongoing pandemic.

It is the responsibility of the parish leaders to do everything in their power to ensure the well-being of the people who attend liturgical celebrations in church. Therefore, they will make sure to follow the instructions of their respective Health Unit for their area.

As of today, March 21, 2022, and until further notice, the wearing of masks or face coverings is no longer mandatory in the churches of the southern region<sup>1</sup> of the Diocese of Hearst-Moosonee (as indicated in this week's message from Archbishop Prendergast). It is not prohibited either. Priests and communion ministers who wish to do so are invited to wear it during the distribution of communion.

As published by the PHU on 15 March 2022,

*Let us be kind to each other by respecting each other's choices and showing kindness to those people and businesses who choose to continue to follow public health measures rigorously and to those who choose not to.  
Let us show solidarity.* (page FB du BSP, 2022.03.15)

Sanitation of hands, places and objects for worship is always encouraged.

Let us remember that the pandemic is not over yet. Recently, England, Germany, Hong Kong and the north-eastern United States (among others), have seen a rise in new cases of the new BA.2 sub-variant. This is why we need to remain cautious. At any time, if the local health authorities feel the need, certain measures can be implemented or re-implemented. For our diocese, this means that the guidelines could be different from one region to the next.

The Ontario government plans to remove remaining COVID-19 measures and mask mandates as they move towards dealing with the pandemic in the long term on April 27, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chancery.

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**Information for symptomatic or positive persons or high-risk contacts:**

Porcupine Health Unit Novel Coronavirus ([porcupinehu.on.ca](http://porcupinehu.on.ca))

Sudbury & District Public Health Sudbury & Districts - Home ([phsd.ca](http://phsd.ca))

Thunder Bay Health Unit Thunder Bay District Health Unit ([tbdhu.com](http://tbdhu.com))

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1 - The 50° parallel is used as a guide to designate the northern and southern regions of the Diocese of Hearst-Moosonee. For reference, Cochrane is located at parallel 49° and Moosonee at 51°.