



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

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MEMO

Date: September 29, 2021
To: Clergy, Parishes, Religious, Parishioners, and Staff
From: Bishop Gary Gordon
Re: BC Public Health Order mask mandate: new lower age

The B.C. government has recently released an update to their Face Coverings Public Health Order (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-face-coverings.pdf>). In accordance with this order, *we will now require face coverings for all people born in 2012 or earlier (ages 9 and up)* for all activities in church buildings in the Diocese of Victoria, including worship services.

The Public Health Order lists a number of conditions under which a person is not required to wear a face covering. These exceptions must be respected, and compassion, good judgement, and pastoral sensitivity are encouraged.

As always, we thank you for your patience and understanding as we journey together through these challenging times.