



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

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MEMO

Date: October 27, 2021
To: Clergy, Parishes, Religious, and Staff
From: Bishop Gary Gordon
Re: New lower age for BC Public Health Order mask mandate,
and Music Ministry Covid-19 Prevention Plan

The B.C. government has released a new verbal Public Health Order on face coverings (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions#masks>). In accordance with this order, *we will now require face coverings for all people born in 2016 or earlier (ages 5 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.

Further, in consultation with the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and music ministers from parishes throughout our Diocese, a Music Ministry Covid-19 Prevention Plan has been developed. **The Diocese of Victoria requires singers and musicians to adhere to its policies for rehearsing and leading singing at church services.** The Prevention Plan may be found attached, or online at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/news/responsetocovid19-0>. Please share this information with the music ministers in your parish.

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