

From: Msgr. Marc B. Caron <marc.caron@portlanddiocese.org>

Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2021 5:32 PM

Subject: Masks strongly recommended

Dear colleagues:

Here is the content of a message I sent today on behalf of Bishop Deeley asking parishes to convey that masks are strongly recommended by everyone during Mass and other activities in church. The rest is self-explanatory.

Please feel free to share this message with all those with whom you collaborate.

Thanks so much,

Msgr. Caron

“Monsignors and Fathers:

Throughout this week, the rates of transmission of COVID-19 through the state have increased. Today, 14 out of 16 counties are now considered to have “substantial” or “high” levels of transmission according to the CDC. In view of this danger to public health, Bishop Deeley is directing all parishes to modify the wording of statements on posters, in parish bulletins, on parish websites, and during announcements at Mass to say “**Masks are strongly recommended for all persons in church.**” This is intended to apply to Mass and other gatherings in churches only. It does not apply to other kinds of parish activities elsewhere on parish property for the time being. This represents a change in emphasis from current messages which may say, “Masks are not required” or “Masks are optional” or “Masks are recommended for unvaccinated persons indoors.” Please introduce this new language in all your parish communications beginning immediately and implement the recommendation by the weekend of August 21/22 at the latest. Note that this is a strong recommendation and not a mandate. Celebrants who are wearing masks for Mass may, however, ask ministers at Mass to wear a face covering as well.

Please continue to pray for all those suffering from the pandemic. Thank you for all your efforts.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Marc Caron

Moderator of the Curia”