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From: Dave Guthro
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To: Dave Guthro
Subject: Diocese of Portland Removes Strong Recommendation for Masks at Masses in Maine Churches

Importance: High



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland

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Diocese of Portland Removes Strong Recommendation for Masks at Masses in Maine Churches

March 4, 2022

PORTLAND---Effective immediately, the Diocese of Portland is removing the “strong recommendation” for all parishioners to wear masks at Masses celebrated in Maine’s 141 Catholic churches. Those who still wish to wear a mask are welcome to do so.

The recommendation for priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion is also removed.

In addition, starting on Monday, March 7, masks are optional for participants in parish faith formation programs and students and staff at Maine Catholic schools.

“Masking while indoors was strongly recommended as a concrete expression of love for our brothers and sisters, especially when gathered as the Body of Christ for Mass, said Bishop Robert Deeley. “Our guidance suggests that it is time to take the next step in returning to a more normal celebration of Masses. The diocese is so grateful for the understanding and cooperation in this challenging time.”

As always, if the number of positive cases surges in a specific town, city, or school, mitigation measures, including mandatory masking, could be reinstated.