



Archbishop Murray Chatlain
Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas
P. O. Box 270, The Pas, MB R9A 1K4
chancery@keepas.ca

Covid Protocols Update Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas

October 6, 2021

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

Back a year and a half ago none of us thought a fourth wave would be upon us. Yet that is where we are.

Again, I want to strongly encourage all eligible people to be vaccinated. I have watched too many of our people, especially in northern Saskatchewan, pass away from Covid. We have had to watch Chief Archie, Simon, Mary Jane, Billy and many, many others pass from this life because of Covid. They are people I care about and miss. While a very few people have real health concerns with getting vaccinated, the vast majority of us can be vaccinated.

There is nothing in our Catholic faith which suggests we should not be vaccinated. In fact, our concern for our elders and all our people encourages us to do what we can to help lessen the danger to our common good. One of the reasons I chose to be vaccinated was to help the vulnerable who cannot be vaccinated, especially children.

I have searched for reputable information on how much vaccination helps with dealing with Covid. According to the Center for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) you are 29 times more likely to end up in hospital if you have not been vaccinated. You are five times more likely to be infected if you are not vaccinated. Pope Francis has put out some very good information about Covid and I invite you to visit the Vatican website. Please get vaccinated.

The Saskatchewan government has implemented a proof of vaccination requirement in public places. I can confirm that places of worship are exempt from this requirement. The "Public Health Order - Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination or Negative Test - September 30, 2021" has now been issued and come into effect. We are not required to check for vaccination to attend Sunday Mass.

Masks are required in all places of worship or faith gatherings. The only exemptions are children five and under or people with breathing issues.

You can find the Saskatchewan public health orders at:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/public-health-measures/public-health-orders>

Manitoba has just made its own announcement. As of October 5, there are more stringent restrictions on gatherings. Indoor church gatherings that do not require proof of vaccination will be reduced to 25 people or 33% capacity, whichever is greater. At this time, I ask that at least one Sunday Mass is open to all.

*In Manitoba beginning October 12, weddings and funerals are limited to 25 people maximum if non-vaccinated eligible people are present. If a family chooses to have QR codes checked for a funeral or wedding then the capacity is not limited. This is the Manitoba Health link:
https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-10042021.pdf*

We continue with physical distancing, masking and sanitization at all our Church gatherings.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '+ M. Chatlain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

*Archbishop Murray Chatlain
Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas*