



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Fresno

MEMORANDUM

To: All Clergy
From: Most Reverend Joseph V. Brennan, D.D.
Date: August 2, 2021
RE: Masking

Pastors, Administrators, Priest and Deacons

Effective immediately, it is recommended that masks now be worn during Sunday Masses, weekday Masses and any other services/events within our churches by everyone in attendance regardless of their vaccination status. Priests presiding at Mass may remove their masks at various moments during the Liturgy as they see fit. However, masks should be worn by all priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharistic when they are distributing Holy Communion. Again, this is in sensitivity to and for the benefit of the health and safety of ourselves and those around us.

Following various health department guidelines and those of every Catholic School District in the State of California, all our students and teachers will be mandated to wear masks indoors, again, regardless of vaccination status. Guidelines for our Faith Formation programs will essentially follow what we are doing in our Catholic Schools and will be posted soon.

We all knew that re-opening and getting somewhere near 'normal' would take time and would be like taking two steps forward and one step back. Rejoice in the 'forward' steps and be patient with the 'backward' steps. God bless you all!

In Christ,
Bishop Brennan