



Date: October 6, 2021

REVISION TO DIOCESE OF JOLIET COVID-19 SINGING PROTOCOLS

This document shall supersede all previously issued guidelines and are subject to revision. Parishes shall defer to local regulations if they are more stringent.

On September 2, the Illinois Department of Public Health published the “Interim COVID-19 Music Guidance,” which provides steps to institute singing and band practices in schools. In response to this document, the Diocese of Joliet will allow singing and all musical instruments in both liturgical and school settings, with specific restrictions. These changes are effective immediately.

A pastor may choose to take more restrictive measures than those listed here, but he may not take less restrictive measures.

Music programs must follow the state guideline as noted in the attached document. The main points of the document are as follows:

- Face masks are required for all activities (Specifics as to methodology are in the document).
- Ventilation must be optimized to prevent aerosol spread.
- Minimum three (3) foot separation between participants.
- For purposes of contact tracing, close contact shall be defined as anyone within six (6) feet of the affected party.
- Instruments should not be shared.
- Wind and brass instruments must be fitted with bell covers when indoors (see document).
- Instruments should be disinfected daily.
- Where possible, put musicians into cohorts.
- Rehearsal times are limited to 50 minutes or less.

Because singing is now allowed, hymnals may be set out on display.

As previously suggested, additional and/or portable HEPA or air treatment systems should be incorporated.