

**Frequently asked questions**  
**On adapting places of worship in the "red zone"**  
**for the diocese of Montreal**  
**for the period October 1 to 28, 2020**

1. How is the number of participants at mass calculated?  
The maximum number of participants at a celebration in the "red zone" is set at 25 people in the congregation. This excludes those leading the liturgical celebration (priest, cantors, musicians, altar servers, ushers). Clarification: each member of a family counts as one person, children included.
2. Can mass be celebrated in the parking lot?  
Why not, as long as all the required conditions are met in terms of preventing contamination and complying with liturgical conditions. Some churches have already celebrated mass in this manner; get inspired by their example and organize your church with a view to offering risk-free celebrations.
3. Is a log required for participants to sign in at each celebration?  
Yes, this is a new requirement imposed not by public health but by the AECQ. To facilitate the task of public health in the event of an outbreak, a log of the people participating is required (name, email, and telephone number). Thank you for setting this up without delay and kindly retain it for 30 days in keeping with government orders.
4. What can be done to accommodate any more than the 25 faithful allowed inside the church?  
You can welcome to the best of your ability the faithful who come; speak and pray briefly with them, offering them communion if they wish.
5. Can parallel celebrations be held simultaneously in more than one space?  
Yes. Parish halls or chapels adjacent to the church with separate street access may be used for Liturgies of the Word, faith-sharing on the Gospel, with or without Communion, in small groups (the choir loft is not considered to be a separate space from the church).

- 6.** Can the faithful be invited to follow the celebration from outside?  
Yes. One option is to use the exterior front entrance, potentially installing speakers outside the church so that people can follow the celebration taking place indoors.
- 7.** Can funerals be held?  
Yes. Funerals may be held with a maximum of 25 people in the congregation (or at the cemetery for burials), not including those assisting with the rites and the ushers. Kindly remind participants of the public-health directives forbidding any private gatherings that may follow.
- 8.** Can weddings be celebrated? Baptisms, First Communions (and first Confessions) and confirmations?  
No. You are urged to postpone all weddings, baptisms, First Communions, celebrations of first confessions and confirmations that have been scheduled for the month of October.
- 9.** Can we continue to offer spiritual care and anointing of the sick?  
Yes. Visits to private homes and CHSLDs for pastoral or spiritual care have been authorized by public health officials. We encourage you to be attentive to the spiritual needs of people who are alone, sick or who are grieving.
- 10.** Can we continue the in-person catechism classes?  
No. For the month of October, the situation calls for cancelling in-person catechism classes. However, parishes that are able to offer online classes may continue to do so.
- 11.** With the colder weather meaning that people are cold sitting inside a church with the doors wide open and as colds begin to appear, is super-ventilation still a requirement?  
It is true that with only 25 people in a big church, the doors can be kept closed. In that instance, it would be good just to open the doors before and after celebrations, as explained by the CNESST.
- 12.** Whom should we ask if we have specific questions?  
The Diocesan De-confinement Committee invites you to participate in a virtual meeting held every Tuesday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., in French and English. This is an opportunity to share our innovative experiences and practices in keeping up approved activities within our houses of worship. To participate in the meeting and to get the link to the videoconference, please forward an email to [deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org).