



Diocese of Rockford

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Office of the Bishop

October 23, 2020

Dear Monsignor/Father,

I write to you today regarding additional mitigation rules issued recently by Governor Pritzker which apply to parishes, schools and diocesan facilities in all of our diocesan counties except McHenry County.

New Rules affecting parishes, schools and diocesan facilities in Kane County:

Governor Pritzker issued an Executive Order on October 21, 2020 affecting Illinois Regions 7 and 8. Kane County is in Region 8. Effective today, October 23, 2020, parishes, schools and diocesan entities in Kane County are required to adhere to the following:

- a. Meetings and social events are limited to the lesser of 25 people or 25% of overall room capacity;
- b. Attendance lists must be kept for contact tracing purposes;
- c. Employers are required to implement remote working for high risk individuals, and evaluate whether additional workers can work remotely; and
- d. The Executive Order encourages remote work for as many employees as possible.

New Rules affecting parishes, schools and diocesan facilities in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties:

Governor Pritzker issued additional restrictions on October 22, 2020, for Illinois Region 1, which includes all the counties listed above. Effective this Sunday, parishes, schools and diocesan entities in these nine counties are required to adhere to the following:

- a. Meetings, social events and gatherings are limited both indoors and outdoors to a maximum of 10 individuals;
- b. Attendance lists must be kept for contact tracing; and
- c. This rule is not applicable to students participating in in-person classroom learning in schools, or election polling places, or sports. The guidance regarding sports previously issued by the Governor <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/sports-safety-guidance> remains in effect.

None of Governor Pritzker's Rules applies to sacramental gatherings:

None of Governor Pritzker's rules applies to sacramental gatherings. Sacramental gatherings include: Masses, baptisms, weddings, funerals, First Holy Communion events, Confirmation events,

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confessions. To determine the allowable attendance at sacramental gatherings, follow “Back in His Presence” rules issued by Bishop Malloy, which current permit attendance to a maximum of 30% of capacity of the room, provided social distancing can be accomplished.

This letter will be shared by the Chancery today with all principals and superintendents, department heads, business managers, and Regional DREs.

With thanks for your continued cooperation and assistance during this time, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *David J. Malloy*

Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford