

Office of the Vicar General
Diocese of San Bernardino
Msgr. Gerard M. Lopez

30-day Emergency Directives

Both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties have been impacted by the Governor's Regional Closure Directives. While our Counties have been in "purple" for a while, the drastic increase in the number of cases, the reduction in hospital and ICU beds that are "staffed" by nurses and doctors, can more aptly describe our Counties as being in "deep purple". Positivity rates are averaging 9-14% countywide, and in some targeted areas within each County, rates have been reported approaching 18%.

Our parishes, our schools and our administrative offices have all been impacted by the increase in cases- resulting in numerous cases of self-quarantines, direct exposures, and test positivity rates. Many of our Diocesan families have been impacted by the virus as well. We have emphasized the risk of social gathering outside of household and continued practicing of COVID protocols. Yet, cases continue to rise among our Diocesan community. If this continues at this rate our ability as a Diocese to fulfill our essential and vital ministry as a Church will be seriously hampered.

Therefore, in consultation with Bishop Barnes and Bishop Rojas and our EOC Staff, we are directing all parishes to do the following **effective immediately today, December 16, 2020 through January 15, 2021.**

1. Close all parish offices, allowing bare minimum of critical staff only, to work on-site, and only for tasks that cannot be completed remotely.
2. Cancel ALL in-person meetings of ANY type and of ANY number (parish staff; clergy/deacons; all parish committees; all training sessions), including meetings of ministry services, ministry programs, etc. **The permission for meetings of up to 10 (10) persons is rescinded and prohibited until further notice. You should conduct all types of meetings by ZOOM or other remote communication.**
3. Conduct all parish business, ministry coordination remotely – via Zoom or other remote communication.
4. **Masses and the sacraments may continue under "outdoor directives", only.**
5. **Live Streamed Masses may continue as done now.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the St. Peter & St. Paul Parish office. Although our office is closed to the public a limited staff will be answering and returning calls. You can also email khein@stpeterstpaul.com or grivera@stpeterstpaul.com.

May Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother watch over your families, important ministry, and service. God bless you as we continue our joyful Advent preparation for the Birth of Our Lord. Thank you for your courageous and faithful service. Please be safe!