

Report and Recommendations from the Task Force for Re-entering, Re-opening, and Re-imagining for the Diocese of New Jersey

Addendum August 11, 2020: Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation Procedures During COVID 19

- The Candidates for Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation, as well as the parents/guardians of any Candidates who are minors, should be clearly informed and instructed that the bishop will be closer than 6 feet during the actual rites and actions of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation, and will necessarily lay hands on the heads of the Candidates and make the sign of the cross on each person's forehead. The Candidates, and parents/guardians of minors should assent to these exceptions to the health and safety protocols prior to the service and provide that assent expressly in an email or in writing. It should be noted that the Bishop will wear a mask as he administers these rites and that he will sanitize his hands between each individual candidate.
- Candidates should come before the bishop one at a time and remain 6 feet apart from all other participants in the service other than the bishop, with the exception of immediate household members who may be seated with the candidate.
- Candidates should not be seated together unless they are domiciled together.
- Although it is the practice in some places for parents and sponsors to join Confirmation Candidates and lay hands on them with the Bishop, during the time of the COVID19 pandemic, all parents and sponsors should remain in their seats throughout the rite.
- After each Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation, the Candidate is to return to his or her seat.
- Candidates are to return to their seats after being confirmed, received, or after reaffirming baptismal promises before the next Candidate approaches the Bishop.
- If there are objects (crosses, etc) to be blessed, or objects to be signed, they should be placed on a table after the service where the bishop may do this while others stand apart, practicing physical distancing.
- If there is to be no celebration of the Eucharist, the service will conclude with the Lord's Prayer, the Litany During the Coronavirus, Prayer for the Oppressed, blessing and dismissal.