

From the Digest 3/24/2021

Holy Communion for the Homebound – Updated Guidance

With the COVID-19 vaccinations now available for many groups, the restrictions on Holy Communion for the homebound are being updated. Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion may now bring Holy Communion to the homebound if the Extraordinary Minister has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Also, it is expected that the homebound have access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the reception of Holy Communion, as per Bishop Libasci's previous discussions with our Deans.

Fully vaccinated means that more than 14 days have passed since the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine was received or, for single dose vaccines, more than 14 days have passed since the initial dose was received. Additionally, both minister, recipient, and other people in the home should wear masks. The recipient may briefly remove their mask for the reception of Holy Communion. The minister should wash their hands, or use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol, immediately before distributing Holy Communion and after leaving the house and before entering a vehicle. Except for the actual distribution of Holy Communion, 6-foot distances should be maintained between the minister and all those in the house. The homebound should also be encouraged to participate in the Mass either on television or via livestream.

For other circumstances where a home visit is not possible, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion continue to be encouraged to make contact and pray with parishioners by phone or electronically and urge the homebound to participate in the Mass on television or via livestream, and to make a "Spiritual Communion."

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Jason Jalbert (jjalbert@rcbm.org). This information has been sent only to priests.