



+ February 18, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Yesterday Governor Inslee lifted the mask mandate for the State of Washington effective March 21, 2022. On that date, masks will no longer be required in the Archdiocese of Seattle, but we will continue to uphold other COVID safety measures and welcome all people regardless of their mask preference.

New Department of Health guidance for schools will be forthcoming and some local public health authorities may not lift the mask mandate in their counties. Our archdiocesan COVID Taskforce will continue to track this and provide corresponding guidance as necessary.

As the shepherd of this flock, I wish to provide a welcoming environment so that our parishes and schools may continue to carry out the mission of the Church. People will have different comfort levels related to masking and we will respect everyone's choice, while upholding our other safety measures.

Let us continue to pray for the faithful departed, the countless lives disrupted by this pandemic, and the health care workers who have responded to this crisis. Please know of my gratitude to each one of you for your witness of faith in God and love of neighbor.

Please know I continue to pray for you, and I ask for your continued prayers. As always, I remain,

In the heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Etienne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL  
Archbishop of Seattle