

## DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND – ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA



**The Most Blessed TIKHON**

*Archbishop on Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada  
Locum Tenens of The Diocese of New England*

**Archpriest John Kreta**

*Chancellor*

### Current COVID Spikes and the Opening of Parishes in the Diocese of New England

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy of the Diocese of New England:

Christ is in our Midst!

I pray that you, your families, loved ones and parishioners are well and safe.

As I am sure you are aware, there is currently an upswing in COVID cases throughout the country and New England is no exception. This requires of us to reassess where we are in our parish openings. As you recall, the Directives of the Holy Synod of Bishops of May 27, 2020 were understood to go both up and down the phases and stages as the situation warranted. Therefore, I now strongly encourage you to discuss with your parish councils the current status of your opening plans and the changing COVID environment around you. For example, if you are now in a “Red Zone” you may want to consider closing your parish until your area improves. At the very least, (and this should be for those in “orange zones” as well), you should consider going down a stage or two of your current plans and to lower the limit of attendees to Liturgy. You may need to consider lowering the number of services as well. It is important that you also emphasize that no one is forced to come to Church and everyone should be extra vigilant in their personal activities during the week if they want to come to church. In all cases, you are required to check frequently the DPH websites for your state to monitor the trends in your area and to ensure you are following all of the updated and current civil requirements and restrictions.

Any questions with regard to particular concerns should first be directed to your dean and, if he cannot answer the question you should contact the Chancellor.

Assuring you of my continual prayers and with Love in the Lord,

**+Tikhon**

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