



B I S H O P   O F   H A M I L T O N

20 July 2021

Dear Reverend Monsignor:

Dear Reverend Father:

Dear Reverend Deacon:

As the Province of Ontario moves to Step Three of the Reopening plan, many are hopeful that the end of the pandemic is in sight. Nevertheless, we are urged to take heed of the lessons learned during past eighteen months and continue observing the wise counsel of the health authorities.

With this in mind, I strongly encourage all clergy, pastoral ministers and parish staff members to get the necessary vaccinations for Covid-19, as soon as possible if they have not already done so. Although vaccines are not mandatory at this time, Pope Francis reminds us that it is a moral imperative that everyone get vaccinated in order to prevent the potential infection and spread of Covid-19 and its variants.

Anyone who does not receive the vaccines may find themselves limited in their ministry. For example, they may not be permitted entrance to health care facilities (hospitals and nursing homes) and schools.

In order that all clergy can carry out their ministries effectively, including celebrating Mass and the other Sacraments, it is imperative that they get fully vaccinated. Similarly, parish ministers and staff members who are fully vaccinated will be able to carry out their respective roles more effectively, responding to the needs of the People of God whom they serve.

We are morally obligated to do all that we know is possible lest the health of our parishioners be jeopardized. And so, in your charity you are urged to receive both doses of the anti-Covid-19 vaccines.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton

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