

# HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK

## General Guidance

“Other than as Viaticum to the critically ill, Holy Communion should, whenever possible, be given in the context of Mass. If however this is not possible, Holy Communion may be given outside of Mass, according to the approved rites.”

## Who Should Receive Holy Communion outside of Mass?

Generally speaking, if someone was a candidate for reception of Holy Communion outside of Mass BEFORE the pandemic, they would likely still be a candidate.

Those who are temporarily homebound are not normally candidates for Holy Communion outside of Mass.

## Precautions to be Considered

At all times, observe the regulations of public health authorities at the county, state, and federal levels, including specific guidance for health safety and social distancing.

If visiting the sick in a hospital or nursing home, observe all protocols in place at the facility. Check in advance to prepare yourself for such a visit.

Other possible precautions include:

- Clergy and EMsHC should ensure they are symptom-free.
- Use hand sanitizer, washing hands with soap and water before and after ministering Holy Communion.
- Wear a mask.
- Do not hand off printed material (e.g. Bible, worship aid, etc.)
- Don't stay unnecessarily long, and other than giving communion, maintain a 6' distance.
- Parishes should track which ministers are visiting which parishioners each day, so as to assist in future contact tracing (should it be needed.)

