



A Private International Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right
Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth

Ref. No. 21-083

October 25, 2021

FOR : The CFC Family

FROM: Arnel M. Santos
CFC Executive Director

RE : Revised Guidelines on CFC Gatherings and Travel at this Time of the Pandemic

Holiness and Peace!

On March 22, 2020, we issued guidelines on how we as a community should respond to the threat of infection from COVID-19. We put on hold all travel, suspended all scheduled conferences, discouraged large assemblies, including CLPs.

On July 15, 2020, we reiterated the guidelines, with more restrictions, as COVID-19 had not abated, and the number of COVID patients and fatalities had continued to rise. The use of online and virtual gathering was encouraged.

Since then, the same guidelines have been enforced, consistent with the even more restrictive health protocols implemented by governments in response to the unprecedented surge in cases. Meantime, vaccinations and other efforts have been undertaken to cope with the pandemic and curb its adverse and fatal effects.

Recently, governments around the world, including the Philippine government, have issued updated guidelines and advisories that have effectively eased restrictions. While still strictly enforcing health and safety standards and protocols, some governments have already allowed face to face gatherings, opened schools and lifted travel bans.

For our guidance in CFC, we are updating and revising our guidelines on face to face gathering and mission travels, as follows:

1. Mission travel continues to be put on hold, except for the deployment of missionary couples in accordance with the guidelines and protocols prescribed by the Missionary Development

and Deployment Program. These include mission travels to countries like Seychelles, Mongolia and some countries in Latin America, Central America and Africa.

2. All onsite/face to face large gatherings in the Philippines and abroad, such as international, national and regional conferences, evangelization rallies, Family Day activities, and provincial echo conferences, are still not allowed. Let us continue conducting these gatherings, virtually or online.
3. Small gatherings, including CLPs, held outdoors, or in venues where the government-imposed maximum allowable capacity can be complied with, may be allowed, provided that all health and safety protocols are strictly enforced. These include observance of government requirements for vaccination, and restrictions on age, time and place (e.g. curfew and granular lockdowns). COVID 19 test immediately prior to such small gatherings is encouraged.
4. Activities in hybrid platforms, i.e. activities where a small group gathers in one venue, while their activity (chapter or sector assemblies, echo conferences, CLPs, teachings) is streamed online, are allowed.
5. Physical/face to face/onsite household meetings are still not allowed. Online household meeting is highly encouraged. However, in areas where there is no internet or the local governments already allow group gatherings inside homes, face to face household meetings may be held, subject to the following requirements:
 - a. the chapter head in the area gives prior clearance and consent;
 - b. the residence of the host is spacious enough to comply with the maximum percentage of persons in a venue or has an outdoor area for small gatherings,
 - c. health and safety standards and protocols are strictly enforced—handwashing, face masks, physical distancing, etc.
 - d. eating together in same table, without the required physical distancing, is not allowed.
 - e. when all members of the household are fully vaccinated and all family members in the house where the meeting is held are fully vaccinated as well. Hosting by each member of the household is not mandatory.

We respect the views of those who do not subscribe to vaccination. Thus, for everyone's mutual protection, it is suggested that unvaccinated persons join the household meeting online and the household meeting will then be conducted in a hybrid platform;

6. Onsite attendance at Masses, wherever allowed, is highly encouraged. This can also be the best venue for the members of CFC and Family Ministries to gather and see each other face to face.
7. These Revised Guidelines shall take effect beginning November 1, 2021.

Let us continue praying for the end of the pandemic and for the grace to be that prayerful, healing and consoling presence for each other, in our family, and in society.

May God bless us all.



~~ARNEL M. SANTOS~~