

# Ash Wednesday 2021 COVID-19 Guidelines for the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

Updated January 12, 2021

These guidelines are provided to assist parish leaders in planning for Ash Wednesday 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are a supplement to the current diocesan COVID-19 guidelines posted at [cnyepiscopal.org/covid-19](https://cnyepiscopal.org/covid-19).

- All Ash Wednesday activities are subject to diocesan COVID-19 guidelines posted at [cnyepiscopal.org/covid-19](https://cnyepiscopal.org/covid-19).
- Imposition of Ashes
  - Remember that ashes are optional in the Ash Wednesday liturgy, and that lay people can impose ashes and self-impose ashes
  - At the mutual discretion of clergy and vestry, outdoor and drive-in worship services may include imposition of ashes, following the guidelines below.
  - At the mutual discretion of clergy and vestry, distribution of ashes “to go,” including walk-up and drive-through, is permitted, following the guidelines below.
  - Imposition of ashes:
    - Masks must be worn by all parties
    - Physical contact for the purpose of imposition of ashes is permitted and should be as brief as possible.
    - Distribution of ashes for self-imposition is encouraged, to minimize physical contact.