



Holy Cross Monastery  
P.O. Box 99  
West Park, NY 12493  
(845) 384-6660, ext. 3002  
guesthouse@hcmnet.org

## Vaccination & Covid Safety Requirements for the Monastery Guesthouse

To all of our guests, retreat leaders, Associates, and friends:

We are beyond excited to welcome you back on retreat at the Monastery!

We are taking all the precautions recommended by the New York State Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control in order to keep you safe and to limit the spread of Covid-19.

**To that end, we are requiring that all guests be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** We ask that, upon arrival, all guests report to the Guesthouse Office to present proof of vaccination. Proof may include a vaccination card or the New York State Excelsior Pass (or equivalent from another state).

If you're bringing a group to the Monastery, we ask that you send Donna Mallory, our Guesthouse Administrator, a list of all retreatants in your group one week prior to your stay. Please instruct your group members to come directly to the Guesthouse Office upon arrival to provide proof of vaccination.

We understand that some of our regular guests may not be able or willing to receive a vaccine at this time. We deeply regret that we will not be able to host you unless or until you are fully vaccinated. We look forward to the day when we will not have to require vaccination to attend a retreat at the Monastery. For the time being, vaccination appears to be the only safeguard against the spread of this deadly pandemic.

In addition to our vaccination requirements, we ask you to follow these guidelines during your stay in the Guesthouse:

### Mask Requirements

All guests are required to wear a mask in all public spaces in the Guesthouse, including the church, coffee area, hallways, and Pilgrim Hall. You are not required to wear a mask on the grounds. We leave to the discretion of each group whether or not you will be masked in your meeting room.

### Worship

We invite you to participate silently in the Offices and daily Eucharist. Please wear a mask in the church and do not chant or sing during the worship.

During the Eucharist, please offer a sign of peace to those around you without touching. You are welcome to receive Communion. Please wear your mask as you come forward to receive the bread. Then step to the side, pull your mask down, and consume the bread before returning to your place.

### Meals

We ask you to wash or sanitize your hands immediately before all meals. Please wear a mask in the Refectory while gathering for the blessing, while serving your food, and whenever you get up from your seat. Please sit with other members from your group for the meal, and when you are finished put your mask back on to leave the Refectory. If you are on an individual retreat, please sit at your assigned table.

In order to limit the risk of spreading Covid in the Refectory, all meals will be taken in silence.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aidan, OHC". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Br. Aidan Owen, OHC  
Monastery Guestmaster