



Anointing of the Sick: Guidelines for Priests/Clergy

Any priests or clergy from the community will adhere to proper protocol to enter any Isolation Rooms. Note: the CDC strongly recommends against any visits to COVID-19 patients.

- **Protocol for Priest/clergy visit**
 - Priest/clergy will be required to speak to a nurse to check on appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment such as gowns, masks and gloves) before entering any isolation room.
 - Priest/clergy will follow donning and doffing PPE protocol as directed for each patient in isolation by the nurse. Part of this protocol is the proper sanitizing of hands before entering or leaving any patient room.
 - Priest/clergy will be instructed not to bring in any book or materials that cannot be left or disposed of in the isolation room. This would include a book that would contain the ritual for Anointing of the Sick. The priest would need to bring in paper copies that would remain in the room. The nursing station can assist in making a copy of the pages needed.
- **Protocol for Communion by Priest/clergy**
 - Priest/clergy will be required to take only one host into a room at a time and to leave the pyx with the other hosts outside of the isolation room or placed inside their clothing (i.e., into a pocket) to limit exposure while in the room. They will not touch the other hosts or the container until after appropriately removing PPE, washing hands and exiting the room.
 - Nothing brought into the room can be taken from the room.
- **Protocol for Anointing of the Sick by Priest:**
 - Priests will be asked to use a separate cotton ball distinct from what is in their oil stock. They are to dip a new cotton ball for each individual patient into the chrism container after putting on PPE (including gloves) and before entering a room. The chrism container itself would then be left outside of the room or placed inside the priests clothing (i.e., into a pocket) to limit exposure during the visit. They would use their gloved hands during the anointing process as they transfer the chrism from the cotton ball to the patient's forehead and hands, and would not touch the chrism container again until after disposing of the cotton ball and appropriately removing PPE and washing their hands. A new cotton ball will be used for each isolation patient. **The cotton ball used for the anointing should be put in a small plastic bag and placed in a medical waste receptacle in the patient's room because medical waste will be incinerated. The cotton ball used for the anointing SHOULD NOT be disposed of in a waste basket and SHOULD NOT be taken out of the patient room.**
 - Nothing brought into the room can be taken from the room.
 - Priests are instructed not to bring in any book or materials that cannot be left or disposed of in the isolation room. This would include a book that would contain the ritual for Anointing of the Sick. The priest would need to bring in paper copies that would remain in the room. The nursing station can assist in making a copy of the pages needed.