The United Church of Canada
L'Eglise Unie du Canada

Regional Council 15
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Covid-19 Update November 24, 2021 (Nova Scotia)

Dear Regional Council 15 Members (Nova Scotia),

Greetings as the advent season fast approaches! May you be blessed as you prepare to bless others with your leadership and ministry through this important season of our faith.

I have been asked a couple of questions for which I have gotten clarification.

The first question was whether there were special recommendations for churches for the Advent and Christmas Season, with respect to numbers particularly knowing that there are people traveling home to be with family?

The Response from Dr. Strang was as follows:
We have not provided any specific guidance regarding Advent and Christmas season but I will emphasize the following:

1) *Follow current Public Health measures https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/phase-five/*
2) *Have organizational/facility plans to support people to follow general measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/avoiding-infection/*

The other question was whether we still had to clean and disinfect?

While we know that the virus does not live as long as originally thought on surfaces. We are told that viruses can live on surfaces for several days. You can reduce the number of germs and reduce your risk of infection by cleaning and disinfecting every day. You should clean the surfaces and objects you touch most frequently at least once a day, or more if needed.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Clean and disinfect things like doorknobs, light switches, railings, toilets and tabletops every day. Wash with soapy water first. Then disinfect with household cleaning products, following the directions on the label.
- Disinfect phones, remote controls, computers and other handheld devices with 70% alcohol or wipes.
- If household cleaning products are not available, you can make a diluted bleach solution following the instructions on the bleach label.

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Or you can make a solution with 5 mL of bleach per 250 mL of water, or 20 mL per litre. You need to mix a fresh batch of the bleach mixture every day for it to work properly.

- Disinfect phones, remote controls, computers and other handheld devices with 70% alcohol or wipes.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to be in contact at fmaccuish@united-church.ca or at 1-800-268-3781 ext. 6156.

As we prepare for the Christ Child, may we strive to provide safe spaces.

Sincerely,

Faith

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister