

# RELAUNCHING GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# THE NEW NORMAL

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- The right to worship vs the responsibility to help prevent spread and protect the vulnerable. (Dr. Strang)
- Continue to be the church – creative and innovative
- The importance of staying informed, being prepared and following public health advice
- Re-entering the buildings can be both exciting and scary for many. Be sensitive to people's anxieties.
- Many voices – Many opinions (Make your decisions prayerfully and consider what is best for your community of faith. There will be outside pressures)
- No one has all the right answers, discernment and sharing of ideas is important



# IF POSSIBLE, TAKE YOUR TIME

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- Faithful Discernment
- What are the questions to ask yourself when making the decision to re-enter?
- What needs are we responding to?
- Does our plan meet that need in a faithful way?
- Does the risk of illness outweigh the benefit?

# IF POSSIBLE, TAKE YOUR TIME

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- What is the impact on those who are vulnerable?
- What activities will you not do? (shared meals, coffee time, passing of the peace, communion, baptisms etc.)
- What shall we do differently, and how shall we live differently as we work through the pandemic and emerge in this new season?
- What are your normal summer time activities? Can you wait until the fall?
- Where are the signs of hope?



# CORE ITEMS

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- Physical Distancing
- Increased Environmental Cleaning
- Good Hygiene
- Staying home and away from others (Even if there is only one symptom)
- No operations as normal
- There maybe slow downs depending on the situation

# THE PLAN

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- Each Community of Faith (Pastoral Charge/Congregation) needs to have a Plan before you are permitted to open your buildings.
- The Plan will need to fit your needs, demographics and activities that you have
- Each plan maybe different and may need to change depending on direction from the health authorities.

# WHY NEED A PLAN

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- A plan may seem like a lot of work, so why do we need to design a plan?
- To Keep People Safe. When people know the protocols they are able to keep themselves and others safe.
- It helps to keep your staff safe.
- If there is a complaint about an activity, being able to show your plan is in place and being followed, you show you have done your due diligence to help mitigate risk.

# WHY NEED A PLAN

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- Your tenants and all groups using your building need to know the plan and be required to follow it.
- Insurer's main interest will be that the procedures outlined by the government and public health are being followed in a disciplined fashion.
- Your plan will show you have done that and more.



# CLEANING

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- After each use of the building, cleaning with a disinfectant will need to happen. All disinfectants that have a drug identification number (DIN) have been approved for sale in Canada. While most disinfectants will work against coronavirus, the following list of hard-surface disinfectants are supported by evidence following drug review, demonstrating that they are likely to be effective and may be used against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>

# CLEANING

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- Cleaning should be done after every event
- Washrooms need to be cleaned after each event
- Frequently touched surfaces need to be cleaned after each event

## Office staff

- Physical distancing when entering and exiting the building, during breaks and meals
  - Areas where staff eat their meals to be cleaned before and after each use (table, fridge, microwave, door handles, chairs backs)
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# CLEANING

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- Tools and devices used in the office need to be cleaned at the end of the day
- If there are multiple people using the equipment, think of asking everyone to wipe it down after they use it (Ex. Photocopier button pad)
- Water and soap needs to be available for the washing of hands or 60% hydroalcoholic solution (hand Sanitizer)
- Hygiene rules need to be posted and observed.

# TENANTS

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- Rental space and use of the building by outside groups
- These are a source of income and outreach.
- Take each user group case-by-case
- Make sure tenants have and know your plan

# TENANTS AND USER GROUPS

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- Tenants should submit their plan
- If a user group does not, and are not expected to, have a plan (ex. baby showers), it is important that they are provided with your community of faith plan for use of our building and space.
- The cleaning is usually the responsibility of the landlord
- Will it cost you more for the cleaning?

# TENANTS AND USER GROUPS

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- Important to have a conversation with the tenant
- Have a look at your rental agreement
- Usage terms and \$ terms
- Day cares (strict health regulations)
- Portion of the Building- make sure they know what portion of the building they have access to and that they do not wander into other parts of the building

# TENANTS AND USER GROUPS

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- What if the tenant does not adhere to the rules?
- A tenant who is breaking the Government and Health Authorities regulations may be fined and/or ordered to cease operations.
- That should not affect the operation of the church or the other tenants.
- The community of faith has an obligation to take action to protect other tenants, user groups, congregants and staff.
- You should have an understanding as a committee how you will handle situations such as this (ex. Initial conversation, warning, and next steps)

# PASTORAL CARE

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- This is an important conversation between staff and the M&P Committee
- Pastoral Care – in person (is it a need, a preference or a want)
- What situations will warrant in person care (Remember, we are asked to be cautious and to limit the interaction we have with large groups of people. Visiting multiple institutions and homes exposes staff, their families and others to many people)
- Make sure you keep a list of those visited and when.
- Ministry with Children and Youth (Health regulations for day cares are helpful here)
- You can also be in touch with the Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults



# THANK YOU

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- Thank you for doing your part to keep yourself and others safe.
- If you have any questions please do not hesitate to be in touch with your Regional Minister or your Regional Executive Minister.
- ***Plans need to be approved by your governing body***, but not the Region. However, If you would feel better having your plan reviewed by the Region please send your plan to [fmaccuish@united-church.ca](mailto:fmaccuish@united-church.ca)