



The United Church of Canada L'Église Unie du Canada



First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council
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August 19, 2020

Dear Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council:

As you are probably already aware, beginning on August 24, 2020 the requirement to wear a non-medical mask in indoor public places will come into effect in Newfoundland and Labrador. For us as church, this does include worship services, weddings and funerals.

When worn properly, non-medical masks can reduce the risk of transmitting the virus. Your mask can be a commercial non-medical mask or a homemade mask that covers your nose and mouth. A face shield cannot be worn instead of a non-medical mask (face shields protect your eyes, but do not protect other people). Using a mask alone is not enough to prevent the spread of COVID-19. You should also make sure to keep your hands clean, follow cough and sneeze etiquette, social distancing guidelines, and stay at home if you are feeling sick.

Wearing a Mask- Special Measures Order:

[Special Measures Order: Masks-August-24-2020](#)

Mandatory Masks:

Subject to the exemptions set out below, all individuals shall wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when in the following public indoor settings:

This includes place of worship (worship services, weddings and funerals) and funeral homes.

Exemption: Seated areas –

Individuals seated in the following places, provided physical distancing of two metres can be achieved between individuals or bubbles and provided they wear a mask when moving around in these places:

This Exemption includes a place where activities or services of a religious, cultural, or entertainment nature are offered.

What does this mean for us as churches?

This means the physical distancing protocols are still in place as with the earlier directives.

1. It means all people must wear a mask to worship (including clergy and leaders).
2. Once seated, members of the congregation may remove their masks.
3. Once the mask is removed, people are to remain in the same location in the church.
4. If a person needs to move (go to washroom etc.) they must put their masks back on.
5. Once the service is over, people must put their masks back on to exit the service.

Clergy and leaders:

1. All leaders and volunteers must wear a mask.
2. For the leading of worship/readers/soloists; mask maybe removed for leadership.
3. When entering, exiting and moving to locations of leadership around the church leaders must wear masks.
4. As before; no sharing of microphones.
5. Whenever there is movement by leadership, masks must be worn.

As you continue to work on your re-entry plans, please make sure the wearing of masks is part of your plan. If you have not added this to your plan, please do so. It is important that we, as communities of faith, follow the government and health regulations.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with your Regional Minister, Heather Sandford or myself.

Sincerely,

Faith March-MacCuish

Executive Minister