The United Church of Canada
L'Eglise Unie du Canada

Regional Council 15
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Tel: (800) 268-3781 ext. 6142 • Email: info4rc15@united-church.ca

Covid-19 Update January 28, 2022 (Nova Scotia)

Dear Regional Council 15 Members (Nova Scotia),

As we continue to navigate our way through this most recent wave of the pandemic, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support for the protocols that we are asked to follow in order to keep our communities safe.

As a follow-up to our monthly on-line clergy gatherings, please see the answers to the questions posed below:

Below are statements from Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Strang, in response to church leaders' questions.

Congregational Singing
Due to the highly infectious nature of the Omicron virus, its current widespread in Nova Scotia, and the increased risk of transmission from vocal activities such as singing, it is important to limit singing in faith gatherings to a single performer at this time. I do recognize the importance of congregational singing and it will be one of the faith activities that we look to re-establish as soon as possible.

Multiple Groups
If a faith organization has a large enough venue they can have multiple groups as long as the groups are kept separate at all times, meaning separate entrances, washrooms and each group well separated within a large room or in separate rooms. There is a limit of 50 people per group and the total number of people must be within 25% of the venue's legal maximum capacity.

Proof of Vaccination
The requirements on proof of vaccination for faith gatherings are outlined in sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the following document
https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19-Faith-Organization-Guidelines.pdf

Please note the following restrictions are still in place, please continue to monitor the website for updates, https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/restrictions-and-guidance/

Weddings, funerals and faith gatherings

- Drive-in faith services have no limit on the number of vehicles. You need to follow the informal indoor gathering limit in your vehicle.

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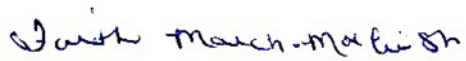
- Faith gatherings (including regular faith services) hosted by a business or organization - 25% of the venue's capacity up to 50 people (indoor and outdoor) with social distancing and mask requirements. Only 1 singer is allowed; no choirs or congregational singing are permitted.
- Informal faith gatherings can have up to 10 people (household members and consistent social group) plus 1 person conducting the service (indoor and outdoor) without proof of vaccination and social distancing. Masks may be required if you're in a public place with mask requirements.
- Weddings and funerals (including visitation) hosted by a business or organization - 25% of the venue's capacity up to 50 people (indoor and outdoor) with social distancing and mask requirements. Receptions are not permitted.
- Informal wedding ceremonies can have up to 10 people (household members and consistent social group) plus 1 person conducting the ceremony (indoor and outdoor) without proof of vaccination and social distancing. Masks may be required if you're in a public place with mask requirements.
- Funeral services hosted by a business or organization (indoor and outdoor) can have up to 10 people plus the person conducting the ceremony and funeral home staff without proof of vaccination. Masks are required (indoor and outdoor). Receptions and visitation are not permitted.

Meetings and training

- Meetings and training (indoor and outdoor) - 25% of the venue's capacity up to 50 people (indoor and outdoor) with social distancing and mask requirements when meetings and training are hosted by a business or organization, including:
    - faith organizations

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

Sincerely,



Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister