

Mandatory COVID-19 Directives from Government and Health Authorities

Below is a summary of some of the COVID-19 directives from government and health authorities apply to churches. Read the full list of directives here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/guidelines/places-of-worship-guidelines>

Self-Isolation Requirements and Churches

The following persons must self-isolate for 14 days before entering church buildings or attending in-person meetings:

- a) those who have traveled internationally;
- b) those showing symptoms associated with COVID-19; and
- c) those having had contact or who have been sharing a household with an individual testing positive for COVID-19.

Gatherings

The total number of people participating in liturgies cannot exceed 30% of seating capacity or 150 individuals (whichever is less).

New To help ensure safety, individuals must be separated by two metres, unless they are part of the same extended household group (i.e. members of a household bubble that may or may not reside together).

New Meetings can be held with a maximum of 30 attendees, with social distancing measures in place.

****Notes:** 1) Those who are medically vulnerable are strongly encouraged to delay their return to church buildings.

- 2) In situations where a safe distance from others can't be kept, public health officials recommend the use of a face mask or covering to prevent spreading respiratory droplets that can carry the virus.

Practicalities

1) Review Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Guidelines here:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/re-open-saskatchewan-plan/guidelines/environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-guidelines>

2) Registration of participants in advance is encouraged in order to manage the number of attendees, and to avoid the need for shared pencils/pens. It will also help with contact tracing should there be a COVID-19 outbreak.

3) Directional flow of attendees should be marked, and signs should be posted to remind attendees of the need for physical distancing.

New 4) Hymnbooks, missals and other items that cannot be disinfected must be removed for 24 hours after use before being returned to use.

New 5) Congregational singing is not recommended at this time. For the same reason, avoid the sharing of microphones. Singing is a high-risk activity because the virus can be transmitted through saliva or respiratory droplets. One documented outbreak resulted in the spread of COVID-19 to 87% of choir attendees from one infected choir member. Although not recommended, if singing, participants must wear masks.

6) If multiple gatherings are held on the same day, time must be allowed for those exiting to be able to avoid contact with those arriving for the next gathering, and for cleaning and disinfection to occur.