



# ANGLICAN EAST NL

## COVID19 Update – February 13, 2021

Last evening our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Janice Fitzgerald placed our province in Alert Level 5. She informed us the Variant of Concern B117 also known as the UK Variant is in our midst. The B117 or as I will refer to it The Variant, is and I quote Dr. Fitzgerald, "concerning and serious" and "requires quick and decisive action." As a Diocese we share in Dr. Fitzgerald's concern and we too will take quick and decisive action to protect the health of all people.

Here are ways we as a Diocese will do our part in the aiding our health authorities to bring some control over the current outbreak:

**All Church Buildings and Properties within the Diocese are to close immediately and not be accessible to the public under any circumstances.**

### **Live Streaming and Recording Worship**

The Church Building may be used to live stream or record worship services. The people present should be the minimum number necessary to conduct the live stream or recording and may not exceed 5 people in total. No singing is permitted within the church building (including soloists). Recordings of music (with or without singing) may be utilized within the worship if copyright permission has been secured for the use of the recording. The use of wind instruments is not permitted.

If using the liturgy for the Holy Eucharist the one presiding over the consecration of the elements is the only person permitted to consume. Eucharist may not be administered to those in attendance. Physical distancing between people must be maintained at all times. When in, or on, church property masks must be worn at all times, except for the one presiding over the consecration of the elements who may remove his or her mask to consume. Ventilation should be employed while gathered in the building in so far as fresh outside air may circulate without compromising the comfort of those gathered or the security of the building.

**Funerals, Weddings, and/or Baptisms are not permitted.**

Burials at graveside are permitted and restricted to 5 people in total. No singing is permitted (including Soloists). The use of wind instruments is not permitted. Physical distancing must be maintained at all times during the gathering. Masks must be worn at all times by everyone gathered. When in, or on, church property masks must be worn at all times.

**The use or rental of our buildings by Individuals, Entities, Organizations, or Businesses is restricted** to Provincially licensed Day Care Providers only. Non-licensed providers are not permitted use or rental of our buildings at this time. Masks must be worn by those operating and utilizing these Day Cares in so far as is mandated by the Government with respects to operating the Day Care under current public health directives. Those operating the Day Care must be fully adherent to current public health directives at all times when using and/or renting our properties.

**Church Offices must close**, yet Offices may remain accessible to those requiring access in order to perform functions essential to the continued operation of the Church. In instances of which access is required, arrangements must be made to ensure the Office is only accessed by one individual at any given time. When in, or on, church property masks must be worn at all times.

**All fundraising activities must cease.** Electronic means of stewardship via E-giving should be encouraged. Providing a safe and secure system for dropping off offerings via drop box is permitted.

**Home Communion or visiting with people in their private residences is not permitted.** Visitation or Communion to Long Term Care Facilities, Personal Care Homes, Assisted Living Institutions, and Acute Care Facilities, is not permitted unless directed and approved by the Health Authority.

**All in-person gatherings pertaining to the Church and its ministries must cease and revert to on-line where facilities exist.** This includes faith formation gatherings such as Sunday School, Bible Study, Confirmation Preparation, Wedding and Baptismal Preparation, and also includes Vestry, Parish Council, Committee Meetings, ACW, Youth and Men's Fellowship.

**Rectories**

For those parishes with Rectories, it is of great importance to note that, although the Rectory is Church property, it is primarily the residence of the clergy and his or her family and must be regarded as such during this time. The Rectory is not to be accessed by anyone who is not a member of the Rectory household (the cleric and his or her family). Should the Church Office be located in the Rectory and need to be accessed by others to perform essential operations, consideration will have to be made

to relocating such items (computer, files and such) to another secure location so as those things can be accessible without compromising the safety of those resident in the Rectory. Although masks must be worn by people at all times while on church property, the exception is that the cleric and his or her family are not required to wear masks while in, or on, the property known as the Rectory.

### **Finally**

Please note this Alert Level 5 needs special attention in the life of our church because we are now dealing with The Variant which was not present in the same alert level in 2020. The Variant is highly contagious, and we are now witnessing the speed at which it can spread.

In our baptismal covenant we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbour as ourselves.

The best way we can live this out in our current environment is to cooperate with Provincial and Diocesan guidelines. Let us care and love one another by being Christ-like in our homes, parishes and communities.

Stay safe.  
Blessings,  
Charlene

The Venerable Charlene Taylor  
Executive Officer  
The Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador