



ANGLICAN EAST NL

Archdeaonries of Avalon and Trinity-Conception-Placentia (Revised Alert Level 4)

Issued: March 12, 2021

As evidence points to the fact that community spread of the COVID-19 Virus, and the B117 Variant of Concern, appears to be under control, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, has announced a move towards easing Public Health restrictions.

It should be noted that, although community spread seems under control and known cases of infection are trending down, this does not mean the virus, or it's variant, is no longer in our midst. The COVID-19 Virus, and the B117 Variant of Concern, is present in the province.

With this in mind, the Chief Medical Officer of Health has cautioned that a movement towards resuming our activities must be undertaken in a very slow and deliberate manner. As such, the move from the Revised Level 5 to a Revised Level 4, as announced on March 12, is very minimal with respects to the easing of restrictions. A key aspect of the Revised Level 4 is that the "Stay at Home" Order remains in effect: People are asked to stay at home as much as possible, except to get essentials like groceries and medication. Further to this, people are asked to work from home, where possible, and that contacts must be restricted to only those living within your household.

With this direction in mind, the Diocese will continue, until further notice, to keep all Church Buildings and Properties on the Avalon Peninsula closed to the public except under various circumstances as outlined below.

All Church Buildings and Properties are to remain closed and not accessible to the public.

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 10 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 permitted with restrictions.

Funerals, Weddings, and/or Baptisms may be performed inside the Church Building. The maximum number of people present cannot exceed 10 people in total (clergy and volunteers included). Physical distancing must be maintained at all times. Masks must be worn at all times while in the Church Building. No singing or use of wind instruments are permitted inside the Church Building. People attending public worship must be sat, and distanced, by household. Contact Tracing Lists should be obtained and participants should be screening prior to attending such gatherings. 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.

Burials at graveside are permitted and restricted to 10 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.

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 remain closed, 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.

Stewardship and Fundraising:

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. Remember, under the revised Alert Level 4, a “Stay at Home Order” is still in effect. People are not to be leaving their homes unless it is for essential purposes – organizing, facilitating, and/or participating in a fundraiser does not fall within the definition of essential purposes. Should a parish wish to undertake a fundraiser that is virtual and does not involve people leaving their homes for any reason connected to organizing, facilitating, or participating in the fundraiser, express approval from the Diocese can be obtained by contacting the same.

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 an exemption has been granted by Public Health or the Regional 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.

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.