



# ANGLICAN EAST NL

## **Guidelines under Modified Level 4 within the Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador**

**The following replaces all previous versions of The New Has Come document.** These guidelines come into effect as of January 4, 2022, and will remain in effect until further notice.

Please note that the following may not, in every instance, coincide with information provided through the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador COVID-19 website. What is provided through that website is for information purposes only and is generalized in nature. The following guidelines have been developed, in consultation with Public Health, as being the best practice as to our specific circumstances and are to take precedence over what is provided for through the Government website.

As always, where further advice is required with respect to the following, or where there is question or uncertainty, consultation should be made with Church House.

**Until further notice, no formal in-person gathering within a Church building is permitted. This includes in-person gatherings such as Worship, Faith Formation and Study, Vestry Meetings, Committee Meetings, Sunday School, Youth Groups, and Fundraising Events, but to name a few. These gatherings may be provided for through on-line means as available and necessary.**

### **Funerals, Baptisms, and Weddings**

Funerals, Baptisms, and Weddings (necessary for pastoral reasons) may be provided for as an in-person gathering with STRICT ADHERENCE to the following guidelines:

Those 12 years old and over must be fully vaccinated (or have an approved medical exemption) and provide proof of the same, in order to attend the gathering.

There shall be no more than 50 people IN TOTAL, or 25% capacity, whichever is less. Physical distancing between households must be maintained at all times. People who are a part of a household's 10 close, consistent contacts may sit with the household without physical distancing. It is suggested that every fourth pew be made available for seating with all others closed off and, as people arrive, they may go and sit wherever they like within the available pews. People should be instructed, as they arrive, that they must maintain physical distancing at all times and may only sit with those who are a part of their 10 close and consistent contacts.

Ventilation MUST be utilized while people are gathered. People should be encouraged to leave their jackets on while in the Church for their comfort. For those Churches that cannot utilize

ventilation while gathered, singing will NOT be permitted during the gathering except as provided by a soloist.

Masks must be worn at ALL TIMES by all those gathered. Masks may not be removed for any reason other than to consume the Eucharist. Public speakers and soloists must NOT remove their masks while speaking or singing.

Services that involve congregational singing may NOT exceed 60 minutes in duration. Singing may NOT exceed 30 minutes of that 60-minute time frame.

A Contact Tracing List for each gathering is mandatory and such lists should be kept on file for a minimum of 14 days following the gathering. Such Contact Tracing Lists should include the name, telephone number, and, where applicable, email address of those attending the gathering.

Churches should offer Face Mask and Hand Sanitation Stations at the entry/exit point of any gathering.

High Touch Surfaces within any gathering space must be disinfected using Health Canada approved disinfectant, applied according to manufacturer's instructions, between gatherings. Reduce the number of doors that people must touch to enter any gathering by propping, and leaving open, all doorways using doorstops.

Washrooms should be stocked with liquid soap and paper towels, with warm running water available. In instances where warm running water is not available, hand sanitizer should be provided. Contactless garbage bins should also be made available.

Multiple gatherings held on a single day, in a particular space, should be avoided. Yet, if necessary, the start and end times must allow for attendees who are exiting one gathering to avoid contact with those arriving for the next gathering. There must also be sufficient time for disinfection of high-touch surfaces between the gatherings. If singing has taken place in a gathering, one hour of ventilation time must occur before the space can be utilized again.

Handshaking, hugging, touching, or passing objects between people, or other forms of physical contact are not permitted.

Sharing of the Peace through physical contact is not permitted.

The passing of the collection plate is not permitted – online donations or a depository to accept offerings should be provided.

No water should be left in the Font or in any Holy Water stoop. Votives and other public use, high touch liturgical items should be removed or use thereof prohibited.

Liturgical actions requiring physical contact will need to be adjusted so far as is possible. In instances where physical contact is absolutely required, hands must be sanitized immediately before and immediately after physical contact occurs.

Common use items such as books and hymnals may be used if set aside for at least 24 hours between uses. Discard printed materials after the service is complete.

Bulletins, Orders of Service, and/or Common Use Worship Books should be placed in the pews prior to people arriving. If distributing such items as people arrive, distribution should be done by designated individuals who should regularly disinfect their hands while distributing items. Those distributing materials, as well as those who are greeting, directing, or coming in regular contact with those in attendance, must wear a mask and should practice physical distancing at all times.

Handheld or stationary microphones should not be shared unless they are disinfected between uses. Limit the number of people providing readings or other activities that need a microphone.

Processions/Recessions are to be avoided wherever possible. Unnecessary movement among those gathered must be limited. Receiving Lines are not permitted.

When Celebrating the Eucharist as part of a Funeral, Wedding, or Baptism, the Sharing of the Common Cup, either for consuming or touching, is NOT permitted at this time. Communion can only be administered in one kind and should be administered while those gathered remain in their pews.

During Baptism, the cleric should not hold the baby, but ask a parent to do so for the duration of the service. The parents will pour the water over the infant's head, and wipe the head, during the baptism. The parents would also light the baptismal candle without the use of an intermediary. When blessing the water, the cleric should not make contact with the water. Baptism liturgies with multiple candidates are prohibited at this time fact that the water of Baptism cannot be used upon more than one person. Once a baptism is complete, the water must be disposed of and not used for other baptisms or other purposes.

For Weddings, the priest should not touch the rings to bless them, nor touch the couple's hands as part of a prayer or blessing (the tying of the knot). The rings can be placed upon the cleric's book by the person in possession of the rings, blessed without touching them, and then the couple can retrieve them from the book.

All those signing the register should sanitize their hands before signing, complete all the signatures necessary for them, and then sanitize them again. Individual pens for each signatory should be used.

The wedding couple may remove their masks during the wedding ceremony if they are physically distanced from guests and the officiant. For wedding photos, masks may be removed for the photo(s) if participants are a part of each other's 10 close, consistent contacts or physical distancing between participants can be achieved while taking the photo.

For Funerals of which the Church building is normally used for public visitation with the family, visitation is limited to one household at a time. Only members of the immediate family, being the spouse, children, parents, and/or siblings, may remain with the deceased. Only those 12 years old and over who are fully vaccinated, and have provided proof of the same, may participate in

public visitation. Private viewing may be arranged for those who are unvaccinated in so far as the family of the deceased agree to the same.

**Gathering for Live Streaming/Recording a Service**

The gathering should be limited to only those who are actively participating in the Liturgy and/or necessary to conduct the live stream or recording such as Clergy, Readers, Musicians, Choir, Tech Support. There should be no Congregation or spectators present;

All those gathered aged 12 years old and over are to be vaccinated (or have a valid medical exemption), and proof of the same provided;

Hand sanitation and masks must be made available to those present;

Physical distancing is to be observed between those gathered at all times;

Masks must be worn at all times by those present. A person may remove their mask while speaking publicly, yet must be worn by the Presider when conducting the Prayer of Consecration. A soloist may remove their mask when singing. Masks may be removed when actively consuming the Eucharist;

The Eucharist may be administered to those present in one kind only. The Common Cup is not permitted to be administered. The Act of Spiritual Communion should be offered for those participating online, in a form commonly used by the Parish throughout the pandemic or in the form following:

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer praise and thanksgiving, for the creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive Communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

*St. Augustine's Prayer Book*

A list of those present, including their contact information, must be compiled and retained by the Parish for a minimum of 14 days for purposes of contact tracing should it be necessary to do so;

All those present may share in the singing of hymns in so far as everyone present remains masked while doing so and ventilation is utilized. In buildings where ventilation is poor, or non-existent, there should be no group singing, yet a soloist may be utilized.

### **Gathering for Drive-In Services**

Vehicles must be separated by a minimum of two metres. Vehicle engines should be turned off; Windows and sunroofs may be open. Doors and trunks should remain closed;

Individuals should remain in their vehicles except for essential purposes, such as to use the washroom, and must remain physically distant from others while outside the vehicle;

If washroom facilities are provided, disinfection and cleaning should be performed on the space before and after the gathering. Washrooms should be supplied with liquid soap, paper towels, warm running water, and hand sanitation. Contactless garbage bins should be available;

Those who approach a vehicle to provide services to its occupants (Clergy, Volunteers) are to be masked and should maintain physical distance from the occupants of the vehicle in so far as is possible;

The Eucharist may be administered to those present in one kind only. The Common Cup is not permitted to be administered;

Clergy and Volunteers must have access to hand sanitation;

### **Church Offices**

Church Offices are to close and Clergy/Lay Employees should work from home in as far as is possible and practical. The Church Office may be accessed and utilized for essential purposes only.

### **Use of Church Buildings by a recognized Business or Organization**

Recognized Businesses and Organizations are permitted use of our property in so far as they are authorized to operate by the Provincial Chief Medical Officer of Health and if being fully compliant with all Public Health Regulations and Guidance.

### **Use of Church Buildings by Private Individuals**

Parishes are not permitted to rent out our facilities for private social gatherings such as Birthday Parties, Anniversaries, Showers, etc. until further notice.

### **Visitation and Home Communion**

Visitation and Home Communion should be avoided in so far as emergent and urgent pastoral considerations dictate. Visitation restrictions for Acute Care, Long Term Care, and Personal Care Facilities are in place and Clergy should check with the facility before making any visit, or responding to any request for a visit. Such visits should only be for emergent and urgent pastoral reasons.