



# ANGLICAN EAST NL

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## **Archdeaconry of Labrador (Revised Alert Level 3)**

**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 its variant, is no longer in our midst. The COVID-19 Virus, and the B117 Variant of Concern, is present in the province. As we slowly move towards resuming our activities as a worshipping community, this fact must remain foremost in mind. As well, because of the presence of the virus and its variant in our province, the need to maintain physical distancing at all times is paramount, masks must be worn at all times, and high-risk activities, singing being one of them, must be eliminated from our gatherings.

The following information should assist parishes as they begin to resume activities. Please note that the Many Members document remains in force with the following adjustments:

### **General Guidelines (Pages 1 through 15)**

Public worship may resume. **EFFECTIVE MARCH 15, 2021.** The maximum number of people present for any public worship service cannot exceed 20 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.

### **Parish Offices (Page 15)**

Parish Offices may reopen as per the direction on page 15. Masks must be worn at all times while in the Church Building.

### **Building Use by User Groups and Rentals (Page 15 and 16)**

Rentals may resume as per the direction on page 15 noting that Gym and fitness facilities, yoga studios, and dance studios are permitted to open, yet Performance spaces remain closed and Group and team sport, arts and recreation activities remain suspended.

**Indoor Gatherings for Church Related Ministries and Activities (Page 16 and 17)**

Indoor Gatherings for Sunday School, Godly Play, Confirmation Groups, and other Faith Formation Gatherings for Children remain suspended at this time. As well, ACW, Men's Group, and other fellowship gatherings remain suspended at this time.

Administrative gatherings, such as Vestry, Parish Council, and Committee Meetings must remain on-line unless necessity dictates that an in-person gathering must be held. Should that instance occur, the guidelines on page 17 must be adhered to with the following adjustments:

The maximum number of people present at any such gathering must not exceed 20 people;

Masks must be worn at all times;

Physical distance must be maintained at all times;

No singing or use of wind instruments are permitted inside the Church Building.

**Fundraising (Page 17 and Appendix B)**

Fundraising events may resume virtually or as a curb-side/drop off event. No in-person fundraising events are permitted. When organizing and implementing fundraising activities, there can be no more than 20 people present inside the building at any one time, masks must be worn at all times, and physical distancing must be maintained at all times. When dropping off or picking up items, volunteers must not enter another person's home. Dropping off and picking up must be facilitated outside the home.

**Preparing and Conducting the Liturgy (Pages 23 through 33)**

In general, no singing or the use of wind instruments are permitted during any liturgy. Masks must be worn by everyone present at all times.

Specific liturgies, of which further note must be made outside of those already explained, are as follows:

Celebrations of the Eucharist – The one Consecrating the Elements will be the only person permitted to consume. He or she would do so, symbolically, on behalf of the worshipping community. His or her mask may be removed to consume.

Confirmation – The Sacrament of Confirmation will remain suspended at this time.

Singing of the Passion Narrative – As singing is not permitted within the liturgy at this time, the Passion Narrative will need to be spoken as opposed to sung.

Maundy Thursday – The Washing of Feet will not be permitted under current restrictions.

Good Friday – The Distribution of the Reserve Sacrament will not be permitted under current restrictions.

Easter Vigil – The lighting of congregational candles from the Paschal Candle will not be permitted under current restrictions. The Exsultet will need to be spoken as opposed to sung due to restrictions surrounding singing.

**Pastoral Care Considerations (Page 33 and 34)**

Visitation and Home Communion to people's private residences are not permitted at this time. Clergy are also reminded that they are not permitted to visit people in Acute Care, Long Term Care, or Personal Care Facilities unless an exemption has been granted by Public Health or the Regional Health Authority.

**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.**