

All Archdeaconries (Revised Alert Level 2) effective March 27, 2021

As evidence points to the fact that 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 a Revised Alert Level 2 throughout the province. This will come into effect as of Saturday, March 27.

It should be noted that, although 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 resume our activities as a worshipping community, this fact must remain foremost in mind. Careful attention and care must be applied in remaining fully adherent, in all circumstances, to the guidelines and directions set out in the Many Members, One Body Document.

All Parishes may resume operations as per the Many Members Document released February 1, 2021, with the following adjustments:

General

Masks must be worn by all people, at all times, while on Church property. This applies to indoor gatherings, as well as outdoor gatherings. The only time masks may be removed is to consume the Eucharist. The exception to this is that Children between the ages of 2 and 4 are encouraged to wear a mask, yet, it is not mandatory. Masks should not be worn on children under the age of 2 or by people with physical or mental health exemptions as specified under Government Guidance:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/non-medical-masks-use-in-public/>.

The maximum number of people present for any public worship service cannot exceed 50 people in total (clergy and volunteers included). People attending public worship must be sat, and distanced, by household (those residing in the same residence). The exception would be those who reside alone who may be seated with another household who has been identified, by them, as a close contact.

If multiple services are to be held in any particular building, there must be a minimum period of 2 hours between the end of one service and the beginning of another. Ventilation, in so far as to not compromise comfort or security, must be employed during this time. Disinfection of all surfaces that could reasonably be touched by the hand, within any area that will be used by the public, **MUST** be disinfected, between public gatherings. Care must be taken to adequately disinfect high touch surfaces especially, including pews, bathrooms, doorknobs, light switches, and stair railings. This must be done in adherence to the Guidance from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador with respects to the Cleaning and Disinfection of Public Spaces. Disinfection by the use of environmental spraying or fogging machines (also known as fumigation or misting) is not an acceptable form of disinfection in this instance.

Singing, and the use of wind instruments, are permitted as per the Many Members Guidelines. Please note that if singing is used within a service of worship, the service cannot exceed 60 minutes in duration. Of that 60 minutes, no more than 30 minutes may be spent singing. Thus, if clergy are desiring to incorporate the Sung Liturgy into the worship, they must be careful that, along with any Hymns, that this 30-minute limit is not exceeded. Congregational singing is limited to the final hymn only. This hymn must occur just prior to departing. Masks must be worn while singing including clergy, soloists, and

choirs. Ventilation must be employed in so far as to not compromise comfort or security. Singing is not permitted in non-ventilated spaces.

The sharing of microphones should continue to be avoided. If it is absolutely necessary for a microphone to be shared between people, the number of people utilizing that microphone should be minimal. The following must be adhered to:

The part(s) of a shared microphone, and/or the microphone mount, that has, or can, come in contact with the hands must be disinfected between users. Those using a microphone must avoid having the microphone come in contact with their lips.

The top of the Lectern, Pulpit, or Podium, if the microphone is positioned over one, or attached to one, must be disinfected between users. This would be the area of the Lectern, Pulpit, or Podium that would normally be touched by the hands.

Parish Offices

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

Building Use by User Groups and Rentals

Rental and use of our Buildings by groups may resume as per the direction on page 15.

Indoor Gatherings for Church Related Ministries and Activities

Indoor Gatherings for Sunday School, Godly Play, Confirmation Groups, and other Faith Formation Gatherings for Children remain suspended as the Government is discouraging Children's Programs at this time.

ACW, Men's Group, and other group gatherings including Administrative gatherings, such as Vestry, Parish Council, and Committee Meetings should remain on-line in so far as is possible, yet, an in-person gathering can be held if necessary to do so. Should that instance occur, the guidelines on page 17 must be adhered to noting that the maximum number of people present at any such gathering must not exceed 50 people. It should also be noted that masks must be worn by all people at all times while on Church property.

Fundraising

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 50 people present inside the building at any one time and masks must be worn at all times. When dropping off or picking up items, volunteers must not enter another person's home.

Liturgical Considerations

There is nothing further to note in this Section aside from what is contained within Many Members and what has already been noted above.

Pastoral Care Considerations

Visitation and Home Communion to people's private residences are permitted in instances where pastoral circumstances dictate that such a visit is necessary. The Guidelines contained on pages 33 to 34 of Many Members must be followed.

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/permission has been granted by Public Health or the Regional Health Authority.

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 cleric 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) and/or those who have been designated, personally, by the Rectory household as being a part of their 20 close and consistent contacts. These 20 contacts are designated by the Rectory household (the cleric and his or her family) – NOT the parish. 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 while on church property, the exception is that the cleric and his or her family, and/or their 20 close and consistent contacts, are not required to wear masks while in, or on, the property known as the Rectory.