

Use of Church Property for indoor Personal (not run by a recognized business or organization) Social Gatherings

Parishes are permitted to rent out our facilities for private social gatherings such as Birthday Parties, Anniversaries, Showers, etc. The following protocols are to be adhered to with respects to any such rental or use of our buildings in addition to the other terms of the rental:

Renters are to be advised that any such indoor gathering is restricted to members of their household and 20 of their close consistent contacts;

Renters are to provide a contact tracing list to the Parish of the names and phone numbers of those in attendance to the gathering. The Parish will need to retain this list on file for a minimum of 14 days following the date of the event;

Renters are required to sign a document containing the following statement prior to the event. The statement should be kept on file, along with the contact tracing list for the event, for a minimum of 14 days following the date of the event:

“It is a condition of this rental that the Tenant at all times during its tenancy operate in strict compliance with all applicable statutes, regulations, rules, Special Measures Orders, directives and/or guidance related to COVID-19 made and/or issued by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador from time to time; including, but not limited to those issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province under the authority granted to her by law. The parties agree that notwithstanding anything else in this agreement, that if there is a breach of this condition by the Tenant, then the rental may be terminated forthwith without notice by the Landlord. Further, any costs incurred by the Landlord associated with mitigating such a breach shall be a debt payable by the Tenant to the Landlord.”

While it is now permissible for our properties to be utilized for private social gatherings, this does not mean that every Parish is obligated to accommodate such gatherings. It is advised that a conversation be undertaken among the Parish Leadership to assess if the Parish is in a position, and comfortable with, the rental of our buildings for this purpose at this time. It is also necessary for the Parish Leadership to consider the logistics of such rentals, especially cleaning and disinfecting prior to and following such a rental.

Use of Church Property for indoor Parish run Social Gatherings

After consultations with Public Health, Parishes are permitted to hold indoor social gatherings, such as fundraising events. The following protocols are to be adhered to with respects to any such gathering:

Masks must be worn by participants at all times unless exempt. Masks may be removed while eating or drinking. An individual solo performer or speaker may remove their mask while speaking or singing provided that they are at least 12 feet from other individuals.

Set up the space to accommodate appropriate physical distancing – front to back and side to side - between Household Bubbles (Members of a household plus any of their 20 close and consistent contacts). The maximum number of people present may not exceed 200 people as per current guidelines.

Although pre-registration and pre-screening is not required for such events, it is recommended. Compilation of a Contact Tracing List for the event is mandatory and such lists should be kept on file for a minimum of 14 days following the event.

Remind participants (verbally and through the use of posters) to practice physical distancing from those who are not their close and consistent contacts.

Ensure washrooms are stocked with liquid soap, towels, and a hands-free wastebasket.

Offer Health Canada approved hand sanitizer (containing at least 60 per cent alcohol) and non-medical masks at the entry and exit point.

Do not share food or serving utensils. Sharing food and utensils may increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19. If food is necessary, have one individual designated to serve food after washing their hands and while wearing a non-medical mask. There should be no self-serve options such as trays of cookies, bowls of chips, or potlucks.

High-touch surfaces must be disinfected prior to and following the gathering.

Group singing and playing wind/brass instruments is not recommended, due to increased risk of spread of virus with these activities. If such activities occur, they should be performed by as few people as possible who are positioned at least 12 feet from each other and other people. Sharing instruments or handheld microphones is strongly discouraged. Performers from the same bubble are not required to be physically distant from each other, but should be separated from others outside of their bubble.

While it is now permissible for parishes to hold social gatherings, this does not mean that every Parish is obligated to undertake such gatherings. It is advised that a conversation be undertaken among the Parish Leadership to assess if the Parish is in a position, and comfortable with, social gatherings at this time. It is also necessary for the Parish Leadership to consider the logistics of such events. Care must be taken to fully assess each gathering to insure every possible precaution and safeguard is put in place.

Should further clarification be necessary, or if there should be any questions surrounding these changes, please feel free to contact Church House or Reverend Christopher Fowler at (709) 699 2481 or reverendchristopher@icloud.com.