

Appendix B: Proof of Vaccination Requirement

Effective October 22, 2021, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has mandated that you must be fully vaccinated, or have an approved medical exemption, in order to attend a faith-based gathering. A faith-based gathering is defined as any gathering as organized by a faith-based organization. Examples would be worship services, meetings, social gatherings, and fundraising events to name a few.

This vaccination mandate is to be implemented alongside restrictions already in place. Thus, **the protocols as contained in the most recent *The New Has Come* document remain in effect.** It is the hope, as expressed by Public Health officials, that as the vaccine mandate is fully implemented, vaccination rates increase, and the current “fourth wave” of infection subsides, that the vast majority of restrictions imposed upon our churches can, finally, be lifted.

Prior to, and following October 22, 2021, it must be posted upon all entry ways into all Church Buildings (including Rectories if utilized as an office or public gathering space) signage clearly visible and stating the following:

“Effective October 22, 2021, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has mandated that you must be fully vaccinated or have an approved medical exemption in order to attend a faith-based gathering. All individuals over the age of 12 must present official proof of vaccination and identification before being permitted entrance into this building.”

Leading up to October 22, it is imperative that every opportunity, and every means, be utilized to inform parishioners, and the community at large, of this vaccination mandate. It is also important that families requesting funerals, weddings, or baptisms, on or after October 22, be informed that only individuals who are fully vaccinated, and can provide proof of such vaccination, will be permitted to attend the gathering. If a family wishes to have unvaccinated individuals attend the gathering, there is special provision to allow for that. Such provision is outlined later in this document.

Before permitted entry to any church organized gathering, all individuals over the age of 12 must present proof of vaccination in one of the following forms:

1. An electronic QR Code as provided by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador downloaded and/or saved to a mobile device;
2. A physical copy of the QR Code as provided by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador;
3. A physical copy of a COVID-19 vaccination record issued by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; or
4. A physical or electronic copy of an official vaccination record issued outside of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Proof of Identity must also be provided in the form of an official document issued by a government, public body, or educational institution which includes the individual’s name

and date of birth and, for individuals 19 years of age or older, also includes a photograph. If the individual is known by the person obtaining proof of vaccination, proof of identity is not required.

A person (or persons) must be designated to check proof of vaccination (and identity if necessary) at the entrance to any church gathering. They must be provided with a mobile device equipped to read QR Codes (the mobile device must have a camera built in) and have the NLVaxVerify Application downloaded. Note that no other QR capturing application is permitted to be used for verification. An internet or mobile connection is not needed to utilize the NLVaxPass or NLVaxVerify applications.

As people arrive, they should be asked for their proof of vaccination (and identification if the person is unknown):

If the person presents an electronic or paper copy of their QR Code, this code should be scanned using the NLVaxVerify application. The application will display a green bar to indicate that the person is fully vaccinated or medically exempt. This person is permitted entry into the gathering. The application will display a red bar if the person is not fully vaccinated or does not have an approved medical exemption. This person is not permitted entry into the gathering.

If the person presents a proof of vaccination that is not in the form of a QR Code, the Greeter must check for the following:

That it is an official vaccination record from their home province, territory, or country;

The name of the individual is contained within the record;

That at least 14 days have passed since the date of the final dose of vaccination.

To confirm that the person is fully vaccinated:

- √ For the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccines, there must be two doses on the vaccination record.
- √ For the Janssen vaccine, there must be one dose on the vaccination record.
- √ You are also considered fully vaccinated if you received one or two doses of a non-Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine, followed by one dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), and at least two weeks has passed since the mRNA dose.

Individuals who meet these requirements may be permitted entry into the gathering. Those who do not meet these requirements are not permitted entry.

Those who refuse to show proof of vaccination, or who provide inadequate or false proof as per the above, are not permitted entry into the gathering. Those denied entry are not permitted to remain on the premises.

In the event of conflict, and should any person feel threatened, they should avoid confrontation and contact 911 immediately.

Those individuals who are not compliant with the vaccine mandate are subject to fines of \$500 to \$2,500 and/or incarceration of up to 6 months. Organizations who are not compliant with the mandate are subject to fines of up to \$50,000.

Pastoral Exemptions

Please note: the following is applied in addition to the protocols contained within The New Has Come document. In instances where the following is in conflict with The New Has Come document, these guidelines take precedence.

In instances where a family is requesting a funeral, wedding, or baptism, and they desire to have a person (or persons) present who are not fully vaccinated, provision can be made to accommodate such a request. In these instances, which should be avoided wherever possible, the funeral, wedding, or baptism will need to be a “private” ceremony attended by those invited by the family to do so. The family will need to provide to the church, in advance, a list of the names of those attending, along with their contact information, grouped by household. This list must be retained by the parish for 14 days following the date of the gathering and shared with public health officials if requested. Those attending must not be displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 and must not be required to self-isolate for any reason. Capacity is restricted to 50 percent meaning that only every second pew may be utilized and households must be separated by 6 feet. In addition:

Everyone 5 years old and over must wear a non-medical mask at ALL times. The mask may only be removed to actively consume the host if a celebration of the Eucharist forms part of the funeral, wedding, or baptism;

Congregational or group singing is not permitted. Music may be provided by a soloist who must remain masked while doing so. Music may also be provided in the form of instrumental or pre-recorded music;

Physical distancing must be maintained between those from differing households.

In instances where further advice is required, there is question or uncertainty, as well as instances where practical application of aspects of this appendix are not possible, consultation should be made with Church House.