



ANGLICAN EAST NL

Guidelines for Worship and Gathering within the Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

“The old has passed away; behold, the new has come”

2 Corinthians 5.17 NIV

As the Government continues to make adjustments to public health measures surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, our **Many Members, One Body** guidance has now fulfilled its originally intended purpose. With that in mind, this new document will replace **Many Members, One Body** (and its updates) effective August 10, 2021, and will be our guidance document going forward. This new guidance has been devised based upon consultation and direction from Public Health and are subject to change as further restrictions are eased or reinstated.

This new document can't possibly account for every local consideration and circumstance, yet it is intended that Parishes apply the contents of this document as fully as possible within any given situation. The continued use of your Parish Task Force is still necessary as a Facilitator is still required to oversee the implementation, coordination, and adherence to this guidance; a Registrar is still necessary to compile and retain contact tracing lists; a Sexton is still necessary to complete disinfection of our spaces between gatherings; a Greeter is still necessary to communicate these guidelines to those gathered and to provide support to them throughout the gathering.

Logistically, you will notice that there are aspects of **Many Members, One Body** not contained within this new guidance. Such omissions indicate that those protocols are no longer necessary as per Public Health direction. Just because such omissions are no longer necessary does not mean that Parishes have to dispense with those particular protocols if the Parish feels it prudent to continue to utilize them due to local circumstance.

In instances where further advice is required, there is question or uncertainty, as well as instances where practical application of aspects of this document are not possible, consultation should be made with Church House. It is best that we all be as sure as possible in what we are doing and insure that our Church buildings remain safe gathering places.

The virus, especially its variants, continue to pose a risk to individuals. Even though many people are fully vaccinated, we must continue to be diligent so as to protect those that are unable to be vaccinated, especially children. Further to this is the need to be pastoral and considerate of those who may be apprehensive as restrictions are lifted.

Proof of Vaccination Requirement

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has mandated that 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 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. A Pastoral Exemption to the Vaccine Mandate is provided for in instances where a funeral, wedding, or baptism is requested by a family of which invited attendees may be unvaccinated.

Further details surrounding the Proof of Vaccination Requirement, and the Pastoral Exemption, are contained in Appendix B of this document.

Gathering Limits and Physical Distancing

For gatherings of which all attendees aged 12 years old and over are fully vaccinated (or have an approved medical exemption) and have provided proof of the same, physical distancing is no longer required to be provided for, or maintained, between individuals who are seated. **Gatherings are limited to 50% capacity, thus Churches may only utilize every second pew for worship services.** Attendees may feel free to sit wherever they choose and with whomever they choose.

While in common areas, congregating should still be avoided. Physical distancing should still be practiced while in common areas. Attendees should be informed, and reminded of, this practice.

Funerals, Weddings, or Baptisms held as per the Pastoral Exemption remain subject to physical distancing requirements and capacity limits as outlined in Appendix B.

Announcements

Just prior to any gathering, an announcement should be made to inform those gathered as to the guidance that should be adhered to while gathered.

Use of Masks

Masks are required to be worn by individuals, at all times, indoors, including while singing, while on Church Properties. The only exemption is for children under the age of 5 and those who are prevented from wearing a mask due to physical or mental health conditions. Masks may only be removed to actively eat or drink. As well, an individual solo performer or speaker can remove their mask while speaking or singing provided that they are at least 2 metres from other individuals. Masks must be worn by the Presider during the Prayer of Consecration at Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist.

The requirement to wear a mask at all times while on Church Property does not include Rectories in so far as the Rectory is only utilized as the private living space for the Rector and his or her family. In instances where the Church Office, or other public access space, comprises a part of the Rectory, masks are required while in those specific spaces.

Church Organized Social Gatherings – Self Serve, Buffets, Potlucks

During any Church Organized Social Gathering, the sharing of food or drinks, such as trays of cookies or sandwiches, bowls of chips, pot lucks, or buffet style/self serve

snacks, meals, tea and coffee, is not permitted. Food or Drink provided during such gatherings should be individually served by designated servers who are masked.

Contact Tracing Records

Pre-registration and pre-screening to attend Public Worship and Faith Based activities is no longer required, yet recommended. Compilation of 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.

Multiple Gatherings

If multiple gatherings are held on a single day in a particular space, 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.

Face Mask and Hand Sanitation Stations

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

Disinfection of High Touch Surfaces

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

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.

Physical Contact

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 in 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. Further considerations are addressed under "Liturgical Guidelines".

Use of Books and Hymnals

Common use items such as books and hymnals may be used if set aside for at least 24 hours between uses. However, projecting materials or distribution of single-use materials should be considered, and congregants encouraged to bring their own items. Discard of 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 while in common areas.

Sharing of Microphones

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.

Congregational Singing

Any space of which Congregational/Group Singing is performed must be ventilated through the opening of doors and windows as much as possible while not compromising the comfort of those attending.

Gatherings of which Congregational/Group Singing is performed cannot exceed 60 minutes in duration, of which only 30 minutes may be spent singing.

For gatherings of which Congregational/Group Singing is performed, a minimum of one hour of ventilation time must be provided for once the gathering is concluded before the space may be utilized again.

Masks are mandatory to be worn when congregational or group singing is occurring.

Sunday School, Godly Play, Confirmation Groups, and other Faith Formation Gatherings for Children

Offering of infant and child minding, is not recommended at this time. Preschool aged children should stay with their families for the duration of the service.

When offering Faith Formation Gatherings for Children and/or dedicated children's religious or faith based programs, individuals aged 12 to 18 years are not required to provide proof of vaccination when participating in such activities.

When offering such gatherings and programs, the guidance provided within this document should be adhered to in so far as it is applicable. Further guidance, in so far as it is applicable, is provided for at:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/employers/recreation/overall-guidance/>

Use of Church Property 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. A rental agreement will need to be put in place and contain the following clause:

“It is a condition of this agreement 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 this agreement 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.”

All rental agreements already in place, at the time of the release of this document, will need to be amended to include this clause.

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 25 people in total;

All those in attendance 12 years old and over must be fully vaccinated and must provide proof of the same prior to being permitted entrance into the building;

Renters are to provide a contact tracing list to the Parish of the names, phone numbers, and, where applicable, email addresses 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.”

Consideration will have to be given as to 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

Parishes are permitted to hold indoor social gatherings, such as fundraising events. The above noted protocols are to be adhered to with respects to any such gathering in so far as they are applicable to the specific gathering. Further guidance, in addition to what has been addressed within this document, with respects to “Fall Fairs” are provided for as an appendix to this document.

Liturgical Guidelines

Processions/Recessions

Physical distancing is no longer required to be observed between those moving in procession/recession, and physical distancing between those moving and those stationary is no longer required to be maintained. Although not required, it is advised and recommended to continue to do so in so far as it is practical.

Funerals, Weddings, or Baptisms held as per the Pastoral Exemption remain subject to physical distancing requirements and capacity limits as outlined in Appendix B.

Receiving Lines

To avoid crowding and bottle necks, there is no receiving line following a service or shaking hands at the doorway.

Celebrations of the Eucharist

Sharing of the Common Cup, either for consuming or touching, is NOT permitted at this time. Communion can only be administered in one-kind.

When preparing the gifts, and consecrating them, a mask must be worn by the Presider. The hands must be sanitized immediately prior to preparing the gifts.

All gifts necessary for the preparation of the Eucharist should be at the Credence Table. The Presider should prepare for the Eucharist at the Credence Table without the assistance of a Server or Eucharistic Assistant.

At the time of Administration of the Eucharist, the Presider should, after receiving, don a mask, disinfect their hands and administer the host as per one of the following methods (Parishes cannot employ more than one method during a particular gathering):

With Communicants remaining in their pew – The Priest will proceed to the nearest designated pew. Those wishing to receive should hold out their hands and the host should be placed upon the hand **WITHOUT MAKING CONTACT** between the Presider’s hand and the Communicant’s hand. If contact occurs, the Presider will need to disinfect their hands once more before proceeding further with the Administration. For those who do not wish to receive, they should fold their arms across their chest at which the Presider may bless them by either holding their hand over the head (without touching) or making the sign of the cross over them (without touching). Placing the host within a communicant’s mouth is NOT permitted. The

Presider will proceed through the pews until all have received. Upon returning to the Altar, the Presider will disinfect their hands once more. The Host and Chalice may be Abluted by the Presider alone at this time or veiled to be Abluted following the liturgy.

With Communicants receiving at a station – The Priest will proceed to the station designated. The administration of the host would be done the same as above. People receiving at a station must remain standing.

With Communicants receiving at the Altar Rail - Communicants will proceed to the Altar Rail. The administration of the host would be done the same as above. People receiving at the Altar Rail must remain standing.

The Celebration of Holy Baptism

For Baptisms of which all attendees aged 12 years old and over are fully vaccinated (or have an approved medical exemption) and have provided proof of the same, physical distancing is no longer required to be provided for, or maintained, between individuals who are seated. **In these instances, churches may only utilize every second pew for worship services.** Attendees may feel free to sit wherever they choose and with whomever they choose.

While in common areas, congregating should still be avoided. Physical distancing should still be practiced while in common areas. Attendees should be informed, and reminded of, this practice.

Baptisms held as per the Pastoral Exemption remain subject to physical distancing requirements and capacity limits as outlined in Appendix B.

During the Service, the cleric should not hold the baby, but ask a parent to do so for the duration of the service. Only the clergy, parents, and godparents should be at the Font. When blessing the water, the cleric should not make contact with the water. While one parent holds the infant, the other parent can pour the water over the infant's forehead and make the sign of the cross at the appropriate times with the cleric speaking the words "We baptize you..." and "We sign you with the cross...". The parent should also be the one to wipe the forehead of the baptized with a single use cloth or paper towel which should be kept by the parent using it and disposed of once they get home. If a candle is lit as part of the ceremony, this should be done by one of the Godparents without any intermediary. The cleric would still be the one to speak the words "Receive the light of Christ...".

Baptism liturgies with multiple candidates are prohibited at this time for the 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.

The Celebration and Blessing of Marriage

For Weddings of which all attendees aged 12 years old and over are fully vaccinated (or have an approved medical exemption) and have provided proof of the same, physical distancing is no longer required to be provided for, or maintained, between individuals who are seated. **In these instances, churches may only utilize every second pew for**

worship services. Attendees may feel free to sit wherever they choose and with whomever they choose.

While in common areas, congregating should still be avoided. Physical distancing should still be practiced while in common areas. Attendees should be informed, and reminded of, this practice.

Weddings held as per the Pastoral Exemption remain subject to physical distancing requirements and capacity limits as outlined in Appendix B.

Please note that the priest does not have to touch the rings to bless them, nor does he or she have to 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.

No receiving lines are permitted.

The wedding couple may remove their masks during the wedding ceremony if they are physically distanced from guests outside their close, consistent contacts and the officiant. For wedding photos, masks may be removed if participants are each other's close, consistent contacts.

The Funeral Liturgy

There is not anything more to add aside from what already has been outlined elsewhere. For Funerals of which all attendees aged 12 years old and over are fully vaccinated (or have an approved medical exemption) and have provided proof of the same, physical distancing is no longer required to be provided for, or maintained, between individuals who are seated. **In these instances, churches may only utilize every second pew for worship services.** Attendees may feel free to sit wherever they choose and with whomever they choose.

While in common areas, congregating should still be avoided. Physical distancing should still be practiced while in common areas. Attendees should be informed, and reminded of, this practice.

Funerals held as per the Pastoral Exemption remain subject to physical distancing requirements and capacity limits as outlined in Appendix B.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Laying on of Hands:

At the time in the liturgy when the Candidate is to come forward for the Laying on of Hands by the Bishop, the Bishop will don a mask. One Candidate at a time, along with their Parents and Godparents, will proceed to the Bishop. Only the Candidate, Parents, and Godparents will come forward. All other family members and friends will remain in the pew, yet should stand in support of the Candidate.

Upon approaching the Bishop, the Candidate will kneel, with his or her Parents and Godparents placing their hands upon his or her shoulders.

The Bishop will sanitize his hands before placing them upon the Candidates head. The Bishop should speak with a normal voice while the Candidate is before him. Once the Laying on of Hands for the Candidate is complete, the Candidate, Parents, and Godparents will return to their pews. The next Candidate, Parents, and Godparents will not proceed to the Bishop until the previous Candidate, Parents, and Godparents have all returned to their pews or the way to the Bishop is made clear. The use of sidespersons to control the movement of people will be necessary. Sidespersons must wear masks while directing movement during the Laying on of Hands. This process continues until all Candidates are Confirmed. Once the Laying on of Hands is completed for all Candidates, the Bishop will sanitize his hands once more.

Presentations:

Should the Parish present Candidates with gifts, such as Certificates and Bibles and such, these items should be laid out and remain untouched for 24 hours prior to the presentation. Only one person should present the gifts to the Candidates. This person should sanitize their hands before and after each presentation and must don a mask while presenting. So as to avoid further unnecessary movement, if the presentation is made as part of the Liturgy, the presentation should be done at the time of the Laying on of Hands as the Candidate is returning to their pew.

Receptions:

Parishes are reminded that Receptions and Social Gatherings hosted by the Parish, or held within a Parish Building, that normally follow a Service of Confirmation, are permitted with adherence to the protocols within this document that are applicable to such a gathering.

Pictures:

Congregating for pictures, either prior or following the Service, is not permitted. It is suggested that a person be designated, and positioned, to be able to, discreetly, photograph the Bishop and Candidate, Parents, and Godparents while the Laying on of Hands is being performed. This person may then share the photograph(s) with the Candidates digitally.

A group photo of all Candidates with the Bishop is permitted, if desired, yet everyone must be physically distanced and the photo must be completed prior to the Service beginning. Once again, this photo should be done by one designated person and shared digitally.

Time spent in close proximity to each other must be minimized. Time spent in the worship space following worship must also be minimized.

Pastoral Care Guidelines

Visitation and Home Communion with people in their private residence is permitted.

While doing so, Clergy must remain compliant to the following:

Clergy should maintain physical distance as much as possible;

The use of a mask is recommended;

Sanitize your hands properly prior to entering the home and upon exiting;

Avoid touching your face;

Practice proper cough and sneeze etiquette;

Providing or sharing food and beverages are not permitted while conducting home visits.

Sharing food, beverages, and utensils may increase the risk of transmission of the virus if it is present;

Home Communion is to be in one kind only and administered by placing it on the recipient's hand without physically coming in contact with the hand. The use and sharing of a common cup is not permitted at this time;

Clergy are permitted to visit Acute Care Facilities, Long Term Care Facilities and Personal Care Homes if requested to do so. Clergy will be required to follow any appropriate infection prevention and control measures, pass screening requirements, wear a mask (and/or other personal protective equipment if required), and perform proper hand hygiene.

Appendix A: Further Guidance for Fall Fairs

Public Health provides the following general guidance and we ask that Parishes adhere to these guidelines, as well as those contained within *The New Has Come* document, in so far as they apply to any given situation when holding a Fundraising event:

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has mandated that 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 a faith-based gathering. This includes church organized social gatherings and fundraising events.

Non-medical masks must be worn while in indoor public spaces. The only exemption is for children under the age of 5 and those who are prevented from wearing a mask due to physical or mental health conditions. Masks may be removed to actively eat or drink. An individual speaker may remove their mask while speaking provided they are at least 2 metres from other individuals.

Access to hand sanitation must be made available at entry and exit points, and be readily available throughout the gathering space.

There should be increased frequency of disinfection of any high touch surfaces within the space

Any volunteer or patron who are symptomatic or have been in close contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days must not enter the gathering space.

Utilize informational posters reminding patrons of healthy habits (masks, distancing, hand sanitation, to name a few) throughout the gathering space.

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.

Ventilation should be maximized within the space by opening windows and doors if possible.

Consider pre-sale of tickets with contact information. If tickets are not required, request that patrons provide their contact information upon entry.

Social activities including singing/live music, craft activities, amusement rides, face painting, and other social entertainment are not permitted. Product demonstrations are not permitted. Children's play areas/equipment are not permitted.

Physical distancing must be provided for, and adhered to, at all times, by patrons and volunteers.

Market Tables/Sale Tables must be separated to help ensure that visiting patrons can maintain physical distance from each other. Also, foot traffic should move in one direction only and wide lanes allotted for so as there is a smooth flow of traffic and to allow for passage between Tables and their visiting patrons when needed. Wide lanes will help prevent bottlenecking which must be avoided.

Encourage the use of contactless payment by patrons, wherever possible, when purchasing products.

The maximum number of people permitted in the space at any one time when people are moving about between market stalls is limited to the number of people the space can accommodate while allotting 2 metres of distance, in all directions, between people **up to a maximum of 50% of the venue capacity**. Volunteers should be stationed at entry and exit points to ensure the maximum number of people present within the space is not exceeded.

When offering Baked Goods and food products for sale, these must be pre-packaged. Sampling of food products is prohibited. As with any foods prepared at home for sale at a market or fair, if you are ill, or someone in your household is ill, do not prepare or package foods.

Patrons should refrain from handling goods for sale that they do not intend on buying.

Should the serving of food and drink be a part of a Fall Fair/Market Stall Fundraiser, such as an afternoon tea, breakfast, lunch, or dinner, patrons need not be physically distanced when seated at tables. A maximum of 200 people, **in so far as the total number of people present in the space does not exceed 50% of the venue's capacity**, may be seated in the space without physical distancing. If Market Stalls are to remain open during the serving of food and drink, the designated seating area must be separated from the market stall area by a minimum of 6 feet so as people moving about the stalls can maintain physical distancing from others moving about and those stationary or seated. Moving within the seating area and socialization by patrons within the seating area should be discouraged. The sharing of food or drinks, such as trays of cookies or sandwiches, bowls of chips, pot lucks, or buffet style/self-serve snacks, meals, tea and coffee, is not permitted. Food or Drink provided should be individually served by designated servers who are masked.

If a card game, or other like activity of which patrons are seated, comprises a part of the gathering, further to what has been outlined above, physical distancing between patrons is not necessary while seated. Hands should be sanitized before and after game play. Table surfaces should be sanitized before and after game play.

The above guidance can't possibly account for every local consideration and circumstance, yet 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.

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.