

PROTOCOLS FOR WORSHIP

Diocese of Rupert's Land

May 25, 2020

Protocols for designing your reopening plan

1. Protocol planning and implementation

- The corporation is tasked with ensuring that the worship protocols are safe and in line with the Bishop's directives, and Public Health Protocols. The corporation may choose to form a parish health advisory group for this purpose.
- The Corporation, or advisory group, review the protocols and their implementation every week for the first 4 weeks, and every month thereafter.
- Participants: **MUST NOT** have been outside Manitoba in the last 14 days, **MUST NOT** be feeling unwell, have a cough or sniffles, **MUST NOT** have been in contact with anyone feeling unwell or diagnosed with COVID-19

2. Communications and Screening

- Self-screening
 - All persons with any cold or flu-like symptoms shall not attend worship, e.g. even if they are confident they're caused by seasonal allergies.
- Send a package to parishioners very clearly explaining the expectations and protocols (with diagrams and graphics where possible). This package will particularly emphasize:
 - Self-screening
 - Masks
 - Arrival protocols
 - Traffic flow diagrams
- Prominent signage at entrance with the same information.

3. Building

- Cleaning and sanitizing protocols
 - Before and after each worship service, sanitize worship area:
 - Pew-ends and other prominent horizontal services
 - Designated seating areas
 - Worship books and pew materials used for worship
 - Door-knobs, light-switches, and stair rails
 - Frequent cleaning and sanitizing of the whole church
- Regulating flow
 - Prominently display traffic-flow diagrams
 - Reposition furniture and tape arrows on the floor where flow needs to be regulated
 - Participants shall keep all belongings with them, this includes coats
 - Assigned fixed seating
 - Mark where people should sit for optimal distancing.
- Ventilation: open windows in the nave and run ceiling fans
- Propping open doors (both interior and exterior) where possible. This will mandate that a door keeper be stationed at open doors to ensure the 25 person maximum

4. Practices

- Greeting

- Situate greeters standing 2m behind a table so that parishioners are physically blocked from approaching them
- Greeters take attendance
 - Check that worshippers are in the directory
 - Collect phone numbers of worshippers not in directory
 - These attendance sheets are clearly labeled with date and kept for the duration of the pandemic.
- Hand-sanitizer and disinfectant wipes at entrance
- Masks
 - All persons wear face masks
 - Encourage parishioners to bring their own
 - The church keeps a supply of reusable cotton masks to lend to worshippers who arrive without one.
 - Used masks are collected in a clearly marked bin for dirty laundry and are laundered with soap before being reused.
 - Celebrant/service leader increases distance between themselves and congregation; wears a mask only for the administration of Communion.
 - In an announcement before service (and in printed instructions) communicants are instructed: before coming to the front to receive Communion, remove mask and sanitize hands. After receiving communion, replace mask and re-sanitize hands.
- Printed Materials
 - Print out disposable service booklets each time
 - Do not use hymnals or service booklets
 - All printed materials discarded after each service
- **There should be no congregational singing during the worship.**

5. Eucharist

- Pass the peace verbally and without movement between pews
- Regulating flow
 - Only use the centre aisle
 - *Create a diagram of the flow and spacing: send it out in parish communications, have it posted at entrance, and include it in the service booklet.*
- Contactless Administration of Communion:
 - No wine, no Common cup
 - Congregational wafers remain covered (in silver pyx) throughout consecration.
 - At time of administration:
 - Celebrant uses silver *sugar* tongs to take wafer out of pyx one at a time and places it on a “paper purificator” (white paper napkin folded square to be disposed of following Communion)
 - Celebrant places wafer & purificator on a table/altar at front of congregation, invites communicant forward, steps back to say “The Body of Christ...”
 - Communicant consumes wafer and takes purificatory with them, to dispose of it on their way out of the church.
- Maintaining distance between celebrant and communicants
 - The celebrant places each consecrated host on its own purificator on the altar, and then steps 6’ back.

- Communicants approach one at a time. The celebrant or administrant says “The body of Christ” from their proper distance. The communicant takes the host from a purificator, then discards the purificator in the appointed receptacle.
- Funerals and Weddings are permitted
 - Strick adherence to all protocols
- Baptisms are not permitted at this time (May 21, 2020)