



The United Church of Canada L'Église Unie du Canada

Regional Council 15
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MEMO

To: Communities of Faith, Ministry Personnel, Board/Council Chairs and Board Secretaries

From: Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Regional Executive Minister, Regional Council 15

Date: June 30, 2020

Re: **COVID-19 Regional Update**

Dear members of Regional Council 15:

Things are changing and changing fast. It is hard to keep up with the announced changes. Therefore, with the tools of the PowerPoint, and the checklist, we also recommend that you go onto the government site frequently so that you have the most updated information. All of the information is still relevant except of course the numbers of people now permissible.

Premier Stephen McNeil and Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Nova Scotia, announced on June 26 further lifting of restrictions given Nova Scotia's continued low rates of COVID-19. "We've now had more than two weeks with no new cases of COVID-19, and Nova Scotians are getting back to normal activities while maintaining precautions," said Premier McNeil. "Continuing the core measures of physical distancing and hand hygiene is how we will keep our case numbers low, especially as we increase gathering limits and welcome Atlantic Canadian visitors to Nova Scotia."

Effective Friday, July 3, 2020 some gathering limits will increase. If a recognized business or organization is planning an event outdoors, 250 people can attend with physical distancing rules in place. For an indoor event, the limit is 50 per cent capacity to a maximum of 200, again with physical distancing. Remember, you can only have the number you can accommodate in your building or in your parking lot with Physical Distancing.

Gatherings not run by a recognized business or organization, for example a family event in the backyard, are still subject to the 50-person maximum limit with physical distancing unless you're in your close social group of 10.

The expanded gathering limits apply to social events, ***faith gatherings, weddings, funerals*** and other cultural events, and arts and culture events like theatre performances, dance recitals, festivals and concerts. Guidelines for these types of events are available at:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Events-theatres-and-venues-COVID-19-prevention-guidelines.pdf>

People can continue to gather in close social groups of up to 10 without physical distancing. People in a group are not required to be exclusive but they are strongly encouraged to maintain a consistent group. People should not gather in random or spontaneous groups of 10.

It is important to note the following for singing and instruments. We are not yet at the place of church singing or the gathering of choirs.

Vocalists, singers, public speakers and instrumentalists

Singing, use of wind instruments, speaking loudly and cheering may pose a higher risk of spreading the virus. Gatherings and events should limit the risk by implementing the following:

- Consider adapting activities which would normally require individuals to be in close proximity (i.e. music, dance and theatre) to maintain physical distancing
- Individuals who are heavily exerting themselves while engaging in activities at the event (i.e. playing music, singing) should maintain a distance of 4 metres/12 feet from all others while performing, including vocalists and musicians
- Consider having vocalists/musicians face away from others while singing or playing wind instruments
- Increase physical distance between performers and the audience to 4 metres/12 feet
- ***The number of performers should be limited to soloists or small groups***
- Members of a performing group should not mingle with audience members, patrons, venue staff, or volunteers during or after performances

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to be in contact.

Faith March-MacCuish

Executive Minister
Regional Council 15