

Dear Members of Regional Council 15;

As you are probably already aware on July 31st, 2020, the requirement to wear a non-medical mask in (most) indoor public places came into effect in Nova Scotia. For us as church, this does include worship services, weddings and funerals.

Government of Nova Scotia:

When worn properly, non-medical masks can reduce the risk of transmitting the virus. Your mask can be a commercial non-medical mask or a homemade mask that covers your nose and mouth. A face shield cannot be worn instead of a non-medical mask (face shields protect your eyes, but will not protect other people). Using a mask alone is not enough to prevent the spread of COVID-19. You should also make sure to keep your hands clean, follow cough and sneeze etiquette and social distancing guidelines and stay home if you're feeling sick.

The question has been asked of Dr. Strang about the mask requirements for someone leading worship. The following explanation has been given by Dr. Strang.

5.18 Notwithstanding section 5.17, a person is exempt from the requirement to wear a mask in a public place if the person:

(h) is a performer or officiant in the course of performing activities requiring vocalization, such as talking or singing, at an event or activity as described in section 5.4. (Health Protections Act, NS)

This includes a priest/pastor/minister/rabbi etc. as well as someone else who is singing/chanting as part of a faith service/gathering.

Please note that after the performer/leader finishes their part of the service they must put their mask back on. As you continue to work on your re-entry plans please make sure the wearing of masks is part of your plan. If you have not added this to your plan please do so. It is important that we as communities of faith follow the government and Health regulation.

If you have question, please don't hesitate to be in touch with myself or your Regional Minister, David Hewitt.

Sincerely,
Faith March-MacCuish