



# The United Church of Canada L'Église Unie du Canada

---

Regional Council 15  
21 Wright Street, Sackville, NB E4L 4P8  
Tel: (800) 268-3781 ext. 6142 • Email: info4rc15@united-church.ca

## **Covid-19 Update June 16, 2021 (Nova Scotia)**

Dear Regional Council 15 Members (Ministry Personnel and Lay Members),

Please see below the information received on June 15, 2021 from Dr. Strang. ***This information applies to all areas of Nova Scotia.***

*At this afternoon's media briefing Premier Rankin and I announced that on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 8 am **phase 2** of the provinces re-opening plan will come into effect. Full details are at <https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/>*

***There has been an increase in the number of people allowed for faith gatherings in phase 2:***

- *when faith gatherings, weddings, funerals and associated receptions and visitation are hosted by a recognized business or organization, **they can have 25 per cent capacity to a maximum of 50 people indoors or 75 people outdoors***
- *informal weddings and funerals, and associated receptions and visitation, can have 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors, plus officiants*
- *Drive-in services are still allowed and phase 2 indoor gathering limits apply to each car (up to 10 people per car)*
- *Other requirements for drive-in services are:*
  - *the service or movie is conducted over speakers or by remote radio broadcast;*
  - *there is no contact between cars and no transfer of things between cars; communion can take place if people in a "self-serve" model*
  - *participants remain in their respective vehicle while "attending" the service, unless accessing a washroom facility, and while doing so, must adhering to protocol for gathering limits, physical distancing, and masking requirements*
  - *participants practice physical distancing among vehicles, such that vehicles must be at least 2 metres (6 feet) apart from each other*

***What does the references to informal mean? There has been some discussion as to what is meant by an informal Wedding or Funeral. In an email exchange with Dr. Strang, weddings, funerals and worship services, planned by a business/organization (which is the category the church is considered to be part of), would be formal. An informal wedding/funeral service would be considered as something like a backyard wedding or home gathering for a funeral hosted by a family, with perhaps a minister conducting the ceremony.***

The requirements for phase 3 and 4 remain unchanged at this time.

**Phase 3**

- Faith gatherings that are run by a recognized business or organization - 50% of the venue's capacity up to 100 people indoors and up to 150 people outdoors with [social distancing](#). Large venues can be considered for multiple groups with an approved plan
- Drive in services permitted
- Wedding ceremonies and funerals (including receptions and visitation) - 50% of the venue's capacity up to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors with [social distancing](#) when hosted by a business or organization.

**Phase 4**

- Faith gatherings that are run by a recognized business or organization - 50% of the venue's capacity up to 150 people indoors and up to 250 people outdoors with [social distancing](#) when hosted by a business or organization. Large venues can be considered for multiple groups with an approved plan.
- Drive in services permitted
- Wedding ceremonies and funerals (including receptions and visitation) - 50% of the venue's capacity up to 150 people indoors and up to 250 people outdoors with [social distancing](#) when hosted by a business or organization.

Congratulations on all the hard work that you do, for taking care of yourself and each other, and for being compliant with the COVID regulations, together we have made a difference. Blessings everyone as we move through the next phases.

*Faith*

Faith March-MacCuish  
Executive Minister