



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

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First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council  
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## **Covid-19 Emergency Update (February 12, 2021)**

Dear Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council:

As many of you may already be aware, the chief medical officer, Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, has moved the entire province of Newfoundland and Labrador into Alert Level 5, effectively immediately. The province has confirmed the presence of a new, and highly contagious variant, B.1.1.7.

The guidelines for Alert Level 5 are set out in public health documents, using the following link:  
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/alert-system/alert-level-5/>

In summary, the following guidelines are in place for our congregations:

- Gatherings of more than 5 people are prohibited.
- Funerals, wakes and visitations are prohibited.
- Burials and weddings are limited to no more than 5 people, including the officiant.

***It is now time for us to do our part to stop the spread. I am recommending that:***

- ***We once again exit our buildings and move to virtual worship.***
- ***All church meetings and programs to be held virtually.***
- ***This variant of the virus is faster spreading than in the spring and we already have 260 cases. You are permitted to have a maximum of 5 people in your building to live stream your services. However, please keep your numbers as low as possible.***
- ***If you are not in the same family bubble, please ensure there is more than 2 meters between you and the others in the building.***

I know this is not where any of us wanted to be, but I also know we can get through this together. Many of us will know someone who has tested positive and/or is in isolation. Please take care of each other. Check in on those you know who are alone and/or isolating. Give them a call and ask if they need something dropped off. Please do your part to dispel rumors and spread kindness. Let us hold each other, those who are touched most closely by this virus, and those who are working tirelessly on the front lines, in prayer. Please know I am holding you all in prayer in this new reality. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to be in contact with your Regional Minister, Heather Sandford at [hsandford@united-church.ca](mailto:hsandford@united-church.ca) or at 1-800-268-3781 ext. 6155 or myself, Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister at [fmaccuish@united-church.ca](mailto:fmaccuish@united-church.ca) or at 1-800-268-3781 ext. 6156.

Sincerely,

*Faith*

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish  
Executive Minister

*February 12, 2021*