

Re-Starting Church Services

A COVID-19 church experience

In preparation for re-starting church services at OCC, Public Health has issued the following guidelines specific to places of worship:

For Religious leaders and staff, we recognize that the nature of the services you provide could require close contact with your visitors and congregation (i.e. less than 2 metres). These interactions as well as the need to touch surfaces and equipment could increase the likelihood that you could come in contact with the virus. Take a look at where you might minimize those risks within your place of worship. Workers who are sick or have signs of illness (e.g. fever, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, tiredness, shortness of breath) should self-isolate. Consult public health information to learn more about the symptoms of COVID-19 infection Recognize and report these hazards and use appropriate controls. Ensure that you and your staff stay home if you or they have symptoms.

Ensure staff are trained on possible COVID-19 transmission points in the place of worship, what steps are being taken to protect them, and how they can protect themselves, including frequent hand washing especially before and after each service, sanitizing items and surfaces more frequently, and not touching their face. Consider how to communicate your health and hygiene practices and protocols to your congregation and community.

Consider whether the use of barriers is necessary to protect staff and visitors (For example, installation of hard, clear plastic barriers where physical distance cannot be maintained). Maintain a single point of entry to the place of worship and a separate point of exit. Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or walkways and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and congregants remain physically distanced apart while moving in spaces such as hallways.

Develop and implement procedures for staff to ensure the regular and frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high touch/shared surfaces and objects such as doorknobs, seating areas, tables, light switches, railings, washrooms etc. Provide hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes where staff gathers. Consider having them available near the entrance. Provide a safe place for individuals to dispose of used sanitizing wipes and protective equipment. Empty and clean waste containers on a regular basis.

The following outlines the safety precautions and steps we are taking to ensure that guidelines from Public Health are followed during church services as well as to answer some of the questions you may have regarding our re-opening.

Cleanliness

- Hand sanitizer will be provided upon entry.
- Hand-washing signage will be posted in each washroom.
- A thorough disinfecting of all high-traffic areas, such as doorknobs, washrooms and counter surfaces will occur before, between and after service times.
- A Disinfectant ULV Code Fogger machine has been purchased in order to facilitate and ensure proper sanitization process.
- When our kids program resumes, only a small percentage of the toys will be used for each service, these toys will be sanitized during the week. Should additional Sunday services be added, each service will receive a new sanitized batch of toys and used toys will be removed for sanitization after each services.

- Multiple High-Quality HEPA Air Purification Units (Hospital grade air purification system) will be installed for the main auditorium as well as the kids areas. Units remove 0.1 micron air contamination which is fine enough to trap viruses.

30% capacity

30% capacity is based on auditorium size, not building size as per Public Health instructions. In order to ensure our auditoriums reach no more than 30% capacity we will be:

- Removing 70% of the chairs from the main auditorium.
- Creating a weekly REGISTER FOR A SERVICE info page which will be:
 - Emailed to church attendees.
 - Posted on our website.
 - Linked on all of our social media accounts.
- Setting aside 5 seats in the auditorium for walk-in visitors
- Checking-in every person that attends the service by using our registration list in order to confirm all those in attendance as per government guidelines in the event that contact tracing is required. All walk-ins and visitors will also be checked-in.

Social Distancing

- Social distancing markers will be placed on the ground outside of the main entrance in the event that check-in creates a lineup.
- Signage will be posted at each entrance reminding of social distancing.
- Social distancing ground markers will be placed 6 feet apart near the Connect Corner and Information Centre. (Once our kids programs and our Cafe resumes, floor markers will be used in queues and drop-off/pick-up locations as well.)
- Floor markings will be found at main entrances, auditorium doorways and hallways in order to indicate the flow of traffic and to encourage social distancing.
- Chairs will be set up in the auditorium in compliance with social distancing guidelines.
- Masks or face shields will be provided for all volunteers and staff as they interact with guests.
- Families who live in the same residence will be seated together. Those who are unrelated to one another or do not live in the same residence will have a single seat ready for them.
- To facilitate seating and to ensure social distancing, our First Impressions Team will be helping each person or parties to their seats.

Touch-less Experience For Guests

- Entry doors and auditorium doors will be propped open when in use.
- On-screen communications for those wanting to receive paper handouts such as prayer cards or tithing envelopes.
- The offering will not be collected in-service. Options will be provided to give online, via mail, and directions will be given to deposit envelope in a designated area at the end of the service.
- Church staff and volunteers are required to model social distancing.
- All guests information and guest follow-up will be done electronically.

City Kids And City Tots

At this time all children will remain with their parents in the main auditorium for the entire gathering. There will be packets available to help keep kids engaged until City Kids' space opens up. The packets will be prepared at least 72 hours in advance in keeping with Public Health recommendations.

Washrooms

- Our washrooms will be able to be use before each service

Communications

To communicate the above, we will share information using:

- Our website
- The Church Center App (For registration)
- Social media - Including video walkthroughs
- Self-serve handouts on site
- Signage posted at the entrance and throughout the buildings
- In the confirmation section of the REGISTER FOR A SERVICE page.
- On-screen before each service begins