



River of Life Bible Church

Communicable Disease Plan

Update: December 2021

A. General Information for Worship Services

1. Masks are required to be worn in all indoor public settings including places of worship and worship services by all people born in 2016 or earlier (5+), including congregants and choirs. Masks can be temporarily removed for ceremonial eating and drinking and by officiants, readers or for singing a solo where physical distancing is observed. There are exemptions for people with health conditions or with physical, cognitive or mental impairments who cannot wear one.
2. No one is required to provide information about their vaccination status in order to attend in-person services. At this time, our worship services will be limited to 50% seated building capacity so all can attend.
3. Prevention measures recommended in this guide reduce the spread of all spreadable respiratory illnesses including COVID-19, colds and the flu. If you are sick, please assess yourself for symptoms of Covid-19 and stay home if you are sick. If you have had a PCR test for Covid-19 and are waiting for results, please do not attend until you have received a negative test result.
4. Activities such as singing and playing musical instruments are not restricted for worship services, although they are known to have some risk of transmission. All participants should consider their own health and the health of others when deciding whether or not to participate.
5. Serving food and beverages is permitted and practice can return to what was in place before the Covid-19 pandemic including allowing buffets and large groups at a single table. Those who are serving food should clean their hands often and must not be sick. Those who are being served are encouraged to clean their hands before using common touch items such as tongs or serving spoons.
6. Live stream services of Sunday morning will continue for those who prefer not to attend in person on Sunday mornings.
7. Ventilation will be increased by opening doors and/or windows for indoor services.
8. Visible signage will be placed throughout the building to remind people of the safety protocols.
9. Hand sanitizer will be available and use encouraged upon entrance at all entrance and exit doors.

B. Additional Requirements for Worship Services

1. No offering will be collected during the service. Attendees will be directed to give on-line or use the offering box in the foyer.
2. Cleaning protocols noted in Section "D" will be adhered to.
3. Mid-week worship services ("Life Groups") must follow the guidelines outlined in any Provincial Health Order including restrictions on numbers and social gatherings in private residences. Life Groups have the option to meet at the church if space is available and does not conflict with regularly scheduled services or other activities such as youth or young adults' meetings.
4. All activities for children and youth will follow the guidelines and restrictions outlined in any Provincial Health Order.

C. Funerals, Weddings or Other Indoor Events

1. If a funeral or wedding is included as part of regular worship, then no additional restrictions apply.
2. An indoor funeral, wedding or other organized event is a gathering of more than 10 participants indoors or more than 50 participants outdoors.
3. All events must follow the guidelines outlined in any Provincial Health Order including:
 - a. Each event must have a designated organizer.
 - b. A Covid-19 Safety Plan must be in place.
 - c. All participants 12 and older must be fully vaccinated.
 - d. The organizer must obtain proof in the form of a vaccine card that a participant is fully vaccinated.
 - e. An organizer must not permit a participant to enter who has not provided the organizer with proof in the form of a vaccine card.
 - f. The organizer must collect the first and last names and telephone number or email address of every participant at an event and retain the information for 30 days in case there is a need for contact tracing on the part of the medical health officer.
4. Anyone who is experiencing any kind of symptoms of illness (e.g. fever, cough, sneezing feeling ill) is requested not to attend gatherings.
5. Hand sanitizer will be available and use required upon entrance at all entrance and exit doors.

6. No funeral or wedding receptions are permitted in the church building unless they are planned and organized as an event noted above in 3(a) to (f).

D. Cleaning and Disinfecting

1. General cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces should occur at least once per day that the building is in use. Particular care should be taken when cleaning and disinfecting of highly touched surfaces (e.g. door knobs, light switches, handrails,).
2. Items that cannot easily be cleaned will be removed.
3. Cleaning products used will conform to Health Canada's recommendations for "List of Hard-surface Disinfectants for use against Covid-19" and recommended concentrations will be used.
4. Signs will be posted in washrooms and kitchen reminding individuals to wash their hands.
5. All high touch surfaces including pews, door handles, bathrooms, giving station, sanitizing stations, elevator, handrails, light switches and electronic will be wiped down after each service or event.
6. Doors and windows will be opened for ventilation of the building before, during, and after each event.

D. Additional Requirements for Employees

1. Communicable disease-related information issued by regional medical health officer or the Provincial Health Officer including orders, guidance, notices and recommendations will be monitored to ensure this plan is current and up to date.
2. All employees will be encouraged to stay home when sick and/or work from home when sick. All employees will be encouraged to wash hands regularly and to cover coughs and sneezes.
3. All employees must wear a face covering at all times while in an indoor public space or working area unless the employee is behind a barrier separating them from other persons, the employee is in a room by themselves or there is a distance of two meters separating the employee from others.
4. A clean environment through routine cleaning practices will be maintained.
5. Building ventilation systems will be properly maintained and function as designed.
6. All employees will be provided with information to properly manage communicable disease in the workplace.