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Health Advisory Committee Report

June 2020

But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. - 1 Corinthians 8:9

Committee Members:

Dr. Charles de Leeuw, Catherine Mills, BscN (hons) MA RN; Marianne Stewart LA (BCSLs)

Our focus in decision making regards church re-starting will always be:

- 1) What Public health guidelines recommend. These changes outlined are a move towards a new normal for us as a church community in response to the BC restart plan. *ref #1
- 2) What church says - firstly the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC), then our Bishops' recommendations; the individual; churches (Saint Matthew's and Grace Church); our congregation.
- 3) We as a Health Advisory Committee appointed by Saint Matthew's advise that the following groups of people seriously consider the risk to themselves and others when attending church.
 - a) People with autoimmune disorders such as diabetes; MS; Rheumatoid Arthritis; Lupus; Myasthenia Gravis
 - b) People greater than 70 years of age (due to the greater risk of contracting COVID -19 virus) especially those with pre-existing cardiac, respiratory disease especially if they have had a recent health event leading to needing to seek medical advice or treatment.
 - c) People who have had recent surgery. (within the last 3 months)

- 4) Restriction may change and current guidelines will remain in place until further notice.
- 5) We have a duty to care for our church community therefore there will be certain restrictions in place during our services.
- 6) We are advising that if you choose to attend church you do so at your own risk. This is otherwise known as informed consent.
- 7) When information is sent out to the congregation this needs to be outlined as such.

General Items:

- 1) Maintaining social distancing rules (2m/6ft physical distance) at all times;
- 2) Do not attend if you have symptoms of any kind (see attached self-screening tool);
- 3) You will be expected to use hand sanitizer as you enter the church and leave;
- 4) There will be a designated entrance and exit to the church. (In the office space we will have appointed visits only);
- 5) If you have any physical limitations, you will need to inform the church ahead of time that you are planning to attend (i.e. when screening tool is submitted);
- 6) People attending church will be encouraged to ensure that their hands are clean. It is important to ensure that hand washing happens regularly and there is access to hand sanitizer;
- 7) The use of gloves will be discouraged. Gloves only need to be used when dealing with bodily fluids; and
- 8) Face masks will be required due to the responsive nature of our worship. Masks may be lowered during the sermon.

Our guidelines re: starting up church events are as follows:

1) Community Groups (including Youth);

- a) These meetings are only outdoors;
- b) Only 2-6 people attending at one time including the person(s) hosting;

- c) Can be at someone's home as long as they have the space to have no more than 2-6 people physically distancing outside;
- d) Adults only due the challenge of physically distancing with children;
- e) Limit time together;
- f) We advise that there is no food that is shared;
- g) You are welcome to bring your own food that you do not share with others; and
- h) Individuals within the group bring their own chair to use;

2) Drive Thru Communion

- a) Will start with wafers only (as advised by Bishops);
- b) Wafers will be placed on paper plates enough for each person in the car;
- c) Parishioners will be encouraged to keep the same household members in each car;
- d) The driver will be responsible for handing out the wafers to the other occupants in the car;
- e) The disposable paper plate will remain in the car to be disposed of when the members are in in their own home; and
- f) Servers will wear masks.

3) Offices Opening;

a) Mary's Office:

- i) The health advisory committee plans to physically assess the office area and look for ways to maintain social distancing for Mary and the Priests before opening the offices.
- ii) The plan would be for Mary's office to highlight an area where people need to stand when approaching her desk that is 6ft away. A basket on the wall outside the door of her office for people to leave paperwork etc for her.
- iii) Look at the possibility of plexiglass or the like to be added to her desk.

b) Priests' Offices:

- i) The priests are able to arrange face-to-face meetings with parishioners; they are encouraged to do this outside and adhere to the social distancing guidelines. If they are unable to meet outside then they set up space in the fireside room that can accommodate the social distancing.

c) All Office Meetings

- i) Pre-arranged visits including drop-in visits;
- ii) Anyone who wants to visit church will need to phone Mary first;
- iii) There should only be one person visiting at a time;
- iv) Visits will be no longer than 30 minutes;
- v) Everyone coming to the church office will first need to complete a screening tool within 24hrs before they visit;
- vi) If they have any symptoms and are sick for any reason they will be advised NOT to come to the church for any reason;
- vii) In the office it will be required that hand sanitizer is used before entering and when leaving;
- viii) Screening tool will be used at the time the appointment is booked and as the person arrives; and
- ix) Mary can be responsible for checking that the person visiting, who will have previously emailed her their screening tool, that there are no changes.

4) Sunday and Wednesday Services

- a) Video links for church will continue.
- b) Changes to sitting in church.*
to be discussed in more detail after visit to church on June 14th
- c) Changes to communion.*

- d) As mandated by guidelines we will be suspending our coffee time after services for the foreseeable future.
- e) No Nursery, Sunday School or Youth services at this current time during the Sunday services.
- f) Parents will be responsible to ensure their children stay with them at all times whilst in the church building. If they are unable to do so it is advised that they continue to participate in church from the safety of their own home via video link.
- g) There will be no singing during the service.
- h) There will be no sharing in the Peace at this time.
- i) No offering will be taken during the service. There will be a basket in the church narthex for you to place your offering.
- j) There will be only 1 washroom open during the service. The disabled bathroom. Only 1 person at a time. Or 1 parent with a child. This will be sanitized after each time it is used.
- k) After the service you will then be directed to leave via the designated exit. Once outside the church building you are welcome to chat but encouraged to do so at a safe distance.
- l) The appropriate signage will be provided by the Health Advisory Committee for use in church.* ref # 3.
- m) There will be one designated entrance (side entrance on south of building) and one designated exit (front of building).
- n) Church attendees will be encouraged to arrive at the church about 15 minutes early in order to complete secondary screening tool.
- o) All those attending or taking part in service will have completed screening tool by Thursday (for Sunday) and Monday (for Wednesday).
- p) Sign up will be the first 40 people to sign up to attend only one service each week. Encouraging those who are able to attend on Wednesday morning to do so rather than Sunday. (40 people only to allow for the people who are taking part in the service such as Priests, Lay People; Side Assistants etc.)

- q) Attendees will be encouraged to arrive 15 minutes early and when everyone is in church the door will be closed.
- r) Seating family members who are living in the same household will be encouraged to sit together.
- s) The sanctuary will be marked out to allow social distancing.
- t) The Balcony will be closed until further notice.

At the moment, unless mandated by the provincial government or changes in the current state of this pandemic, we will be encouraging everyone to follow these guidelines. If there are any changes in the current situation all church activities may be suspended.

References for further information:

- 1) <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>
- 2) <https://pacificdistrict.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BC-Restart-Plan-Churches-May-20-2020.pdf>
- 3) <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus/resources#.XsrJLqot9D>