

Wayne Williams
*Executive Secretary,
VP for Administration*

December 9, 2020

My Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Blessings and peace be upon you.

The COVID-19 virus is on the increase throughout our province and as such, improved measures and caution for personal health and public safety is needed. The government ministerial orders have not all been posted yet but should be available soon from Alberta Health. This is a summary of what is relevant to our churches.

Also attached is more detailed information for your guidance and consideration. **PLEASE VIEW THIS LINK**

<https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>

Places of Worship

Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Dec. 13

Faith services are limited to **15%** of fire code occupancy for in-person attendance:

1. Services must be held at their normal location
2. Physical distancing between households must be maintained
3. Mask use is mandatory

Alternatively:

1. Virtual or online services are recommended
2. Drive-in services where people do not leave their vehicles and adhere to guidance are allowed

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Additional safety measures:

1. In-person faith group meetings and other religious gatherings are:
 - a. not permitted in private homes while these measures are in effect
 - b. permitted when conducted at a place of worship as long as physical distancing and public health measures are followed
2. Faith leaders and other speakers can remove their masks while speaking if there is a distance of 2 metres. The mask must be put on again once finished speaking.
3. Group performance activities, such as choir singing and playing music, are permitted if they are normal worship practices and not for the purpose of entertainment. Performers must wear masks at all times.

Weddings and Funerals

No change – Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Effective Nov. 24

1. Maximum of 10 people for wedding ceremonies or funeral services and must be held in a public place
 - a. This includes the officiant, bride/groom and witnesses
 - b. This does not include staff or organizers who are not considered an invited guest
 - c. This applies to any facility, including places of worship and funeral homes.
 - d. This includes services held indoors or outdoors, seated or non-seated.
2. Receptions are not permitted

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This measure will help limit exposure, reduce outbreaks and protect vulnerable attendees.

Additionally:

- absolutely no physical membership visitations.
- no travel reimbursement without discretionary approval from Treasury.

May God continue to bless your ministries and protect your families.



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