



## MEMO

TO: All Pastors, Priests and Parish Staff  
FROM: Anne James, Human Resources Advisor  
DATE: July 29, 2020  
RE: COVID-19 Safe Practices

---

On July 24, 2020, the Province of Nova Scotia introduced new requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19, to prevent a second wave and in an effort to set the groundwork to open the economy further. These requirements were clarified in a meeting with Dr. Strang on July 28, 2020 and a subsequent email on July 29, 2020. Up until now, we have been encouraged to wear a mask. Effective July 31, 2020, non-medical masks are **mandatory** in indoor public spaces. This is in accordance with the most recent Public Health order <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/health-protection-act-order-by-the-medical-officer-of-health.pdf> The exemption to this is “a performer or officiant (priest/pastor/minister/rabbi etc as well as someone else who is singing/chanting as part of a faith service/gathering) in the course of performing activities requiring vocalization, such as talking or singing, at an event or activity as described in section 5.4.” Specifically, Section 5.4 (d) addresses weddings and funerals, and other faith gatherings.

What does this mean for you effective July 31, 2020?

- A. While in the church, all participants must wear a mask with the above stated exemptions.
  - a. Masks should be worn to cover the mouth and nose
    - i. Face shields are not considered to be a substitute for a mask
  - b. Hand sanitizing and physical distancing are still required
  - c. Exemptions for masks include those under the age of two (2) and to those who claim a medical exemption
  - d. If someone claims a medical exemption, please note it on the attendance sheet.
    - i. You are not permitted to ask the specifics of the exemption as medical information is confidential
  - e. When receiving communion, the mask may be removed. Once you have consumed communion, the mask must be replaced.
  - f. During wedding ceremonies, the bride and groom may remove their masks for their vows and wedding photos
  - g. There should be no procession for the bride and groom.
  - h. Music ministry remains limited to a cantor provided they are able to appropriately distance (at a minimum of 10 ft/3 metres). The playing of wind instruments requires similar distancing.
- B. When you are meeting with someone other than a staff member, you must wear a mask. Your visitor(s) are also required to be masked. When there are no outside visitors, a mask is not required in the office or hall.
  - a. To assist with this, ensure you have a supply of disposable masks available for use
  - b. Continue to provide hand sanitizer in an easily accessible place
  - c. Maintain appropriate physical distancing where possible
  - d. Masks are required for activities in the church hall such as church/community suppers or bingo except when eating
- C. Churches and church halls must be cleaned after each activity following the previously announced cleaning protocols.