

Advice from Durham Region Health Department for Places of Worship*



- ✓ Places of worship are permitted to hold indoor and outdoor weddings, funeral, services, rites, or ceremonies and must adhere to the gathering limits set out by the **Province**.
- ✓ Public/private social/event gatherings held in meeting/event spaces are restricted to the gathering limits set out by the **Province**.
- ✓ Be aware of the most current, credible public health information/recommendations. For detailed guidance for Places of Worship review the Ministry of Health's document **COVID-19 Advice: Religious Services, Rites or Ceremonies**.
- ✓ A Safety Plan, outlining how to protect staff and the public against COVID-19 within the facility must be made available upon request. A copy of the safety plan must be posted within the facility for viewing by staff and the public. For more details visit the Durham Region Health Department **Safety Plan Template**, **COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan Checklist** and the Province's document **Develop Your COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan**.



Post signs at all entrances directing those who are ill to not enter. Advise staff and the public to stay home if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with anyone who has been sick with the virus.



Recommend vulnerable individuals take part in virtual or drive-in services; or offer a dedicated service for them.



Active screening must be conducted for all individuals, including children, staff and volunteers prior to entry, each day they attend service. Screening logs must be maintained for 1 month and only disclosed when requested by the medical officer of health or an inspector under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. For detailed guidance visit the Ministry of Health's website **Ontario COVID-19 Screening**.



Maintain a record for 30 days of all individuals who attend in-person services or enter the facility (including names, contact information, dates and times) for contact tracing.



Practice proper respiratory etiquette (e.g. cough or sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue and not your hands) followed by appropriate hand hygiene. Avoid touching the face (eyes, nose and mouth).



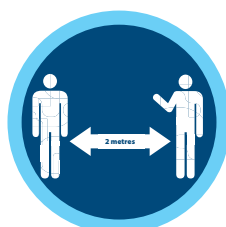
Washrooms provided for the public and staff must be cleaned and disinfected frequently. Cleaning and disinfecting logs must be maintained. The use of disposable paper towels is preferred over the use of hand dryers in washrooms.



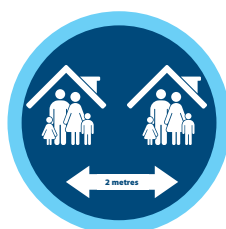
Ensure properly stocked and frequently cleaned and disinfected handwash and/or hand sanitizer stations are made available at the entrance and throughout the facility for everyone to wash/sanitize their hands as required (e.g. prior to sharing/distribution of materials/objects, etc.).



Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces/equipment frequently. Recommend cleaning and disinfecting twice per day at a minimum while in operation. Use only disinfectants that have a Drug Identification Number (DIN) approved by **Health Canada** and follow the manufacturer's direction regarding contact time. Maintain cleaning and disinfecting logs.



Maintain physical distancing by keeping 2 metres apart between all individuals not in the same household. Prevent group gatherings and overcrowding within the facility. Adhere to gathering/capacity restrictions set out by the Province.



Ensure seating allows for 2 metres physical distancing between families (e.g. using every other row, rearrange seating, remove seating, mark unavailable).



The use of non-medical mask/face covering is mandatory when indoors, including during weddings, funerals, services, rites or ceremonies for all individuals. Staff must wear personal protective equipment (medical mask and eye protection) indoors when they come within 2 metres of another person who is not wearing a mask/face covering and where there is no impermeable barrier in place. A face shield is not a substitute for a mask.



A policy must be in place for those entering enclosed public spaces including exemptions set out by the Province from wearing a non-medical mask or face covering.



Limit the number of individuals who have contact with shared/distributed materials/objects (e.g. books, communion, microphones, prayer mats, passing candles, etc.). Clean and disinfect materials/objects after each use, do not reuse immediately or use single service items.



Social gatherings before or after in-person services, including those where food and drink are shared are subject to public gathering limits, and physical distancing as required. Social/event gathering limits are different than the limits permitted for religious services, rites, and ceremonies. For further guidance review the requirements set out by the **Province**.



Singing, choirs, playing of brass/wind instruments are strongly discouraged. Singers and players of brass/wind instruments must be separated from any spectators by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier. Physical distancing of 2 metres must be maintained from anyone outside their household.



Any childcare and children's programming should operate in a manner consistent with the **Ministry of Health's COVID Guidance for Day Camps** (e.g. cohorting, masking, room separation for different cohorts, etc.). For information on if this programming is permitted to operate review the current requirements set out by the **Province**.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

durham.ca/novelcoronavirus

Durham Health Connection Line | 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

*Pursuant to the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 and its applicable Regulations, individuals who do not comply with the above noted requirements may be liable for a fine up to a maximum of \$100,000 or in the case of a corporation, not more than \$10,000,000 for each day or part of each day on which the offence occurs or continues.

