

Re-entry for in person attendance for Worship

As we move forward with re-entry for in person attendance for worship in the sanctuary, we are very conscious that some members of Mt Royal have felt a deep sense of loss being away from the church building and not seeing their friends. At the same time, we have to do our due diligence to ensure that we do whatever we can to limit the risk of spreading Covid -19 to staff, volunteers and those attending worship.

This checklist outlines the basic requirements people will have to follow in order to be able to attend worship in person in the sanctuary. This summary was prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee of Council on Re-entry and is based on guidelines issued by the United Church of Canada, Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Region 14, Public Health (Office of the Chief Medical Officer of NB) and Worksafe NB and considers feedback from our faith family.

Here is what you need to know to attend in person worship:

- Individuals wishing to attend worship should try to preregister online at mountroualuc.ca or call the office at 855-5771 by 1 PM on the Thurs preceding the service. If spaces permit, registration can still be done online until 5PM on Saturday evening.
- If the numbers of interested persons exceeds spaces available, names will be placed on a waiting list for the next service.
- ***If there is space for you for the upcoming Sunday service you will receive an email or phone call advising you so please be sure to check to see if you received confirmation. If you are not advised there is space, your name will be carried forward for the next Sunday service.***
- Entrance for worship, unless actively participating in the service delivery, must be via the Bessborough Avenue *outside* right hand door (marked Entrance Only). Exiting will be via the *inside* right-hand door (marked Exit Only).
- Only staff are permitted to use the washroom across from the Minister's study.
- Masks are mandatory for all persons throughout worship.
- Any person not complying with MRUC's policy on mask wearing will be refused entry and should the person remove his or her mask when MRUC has decided the wearing of a face covering is mandatory, the person will be reminded and then asked to leave if non-compliant.
- Worshippers should arrive early because in addition to pre-registration, the Covid -19 screening test will be reviewed by a volunteer. Anyone exhibiting any of the following symptoms are asked to stay home: fever or fever like symptoms, new cough or worsening chronic cough, runny nose, headache, sore throat, new onset of fatigue, new onset of muscle pain, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, and, in children and young adults, purple fingers or toes.

It is recognized that many of the known symptoms of Covid-19 and colds and influenzas are similar and there is no way for a volunteer nor attendee to be able to differentiate between possible causes of illness. Please do not go to the church building if you are experiencing any Covid, cold or flu-like symptoms.

- Worshippers must hand sanitize upon entry and exit.

- A volunteer will confirm contact tracing information: date, name, telephone number, time entering and leaving the building, purpose of being in the building, whether the Covid-19 evaluation was reviewed and no symptoms are evident and confirmation that hands were sanitized.
- Worshippers should keep their personal items such as purses, coats, hats, gloves, boots, umbrellas etc. with them in the assigned seating in the pew.
- A volunteer will direct the worshipper and any accompanying bubbled persons to their seat(s). Bubbled individuals may sit together but individuals must remain alone in their seats, observing physical distancing requirements.
- Seating will be limited and marked to indicate social distancing. A minimum of 2 meters (6 feet) of distancing front to back and 2 metres side to side will be required. Pews and seats unavailable for seating will be clearly indicated.
- In keeping with infection control procedures, seats will be filled from the front to the back. At the end of the service a volunteer will motion for you to leave from the rear seats first.
- All hymn books, bibles, informational packages, donation envelopes, pencils etc. will have been removed from the holders in the pews.
- No offering plate will be passed during a Sunday worship or other live event in the sanctuary. Rather, a basket will be left at the rear of the sanctuary where worshippers may, if they so desire, leave a donation on their way out of the building.
- At this time there will not be any congregational singing. MRUC reserves the right to allow singing, with or without masks, should Public Health officials permit singing.
- In order to ensure physical distancing requirements are followed, there will be markings outside the building entrances and on the interior in any place where people may be lined up. This will be particularly important for entering and exiting the building.
- At the conclusion of the service, a volunteer will direct the worshipper when to exit the building, with hand sanitizing required as the person departs.
- No socializing is permitted inside the sanctuary so worshippers are asked to immediately exit the building and to not gather on the church property.

Plans for Sunday School (BLAST) are still being finalized and will be conveyed as soon as they are known. For now, it is expected that BLAST will be online and start at some point in October.

Please note that **if** a maximum number of persons permitted to gather is established again by the Province, MRUC reserves the right to specify a lesser number. Such a maximum capacity established for persons in the sanctuary for worship includes the minister, music director, any musicians, individuals participating in the service (such as the scripture reader), the sound booth control tech crew and any volunteers ensuring Covid -19 protocol and the Operations Plan are being followed.

With the Covid situation being fluid, should Public Health issue revised guidelines based on infection levels which would impact building access for staff, worship and small groups, every effort will be made to advise members of the Community of Faith and user groups in the most efficient means possible. All members and people associated with MRUC are encouraged to follow provincial guidelines regularly. Updates are available on the website for the Province of NB at <http://www.gnb.ca/>

Thank you for your cooperation in trying to keep everyone safe. If you have any concerns, please contact Susan Fowler, Council Chair at 855-7008 or councilchair@mountroyaluc.ca

