



ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL

The Venerable Robert Camara  
Executive Archdeacon & Vicar General

November 26, 2021

Dear colleagues,

I write to you with updates on changes to our guidelines for worship and gathering that the Government of Quebec and Public Health have recently announced specifically for places of worship.

**MASKS:** It is now required that masks be worn by everyone in church at all times, even while seated. This return to a previous practice is in response to the arrival of autumn and more activities moving indoors, bringing with it the potential for a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases. Choir members may continue to sing without masks so long as they are at least two metres from each other and from the congregation. Presiders, readers, and intercessors may also speak without masks so long as they too are at least two metres from each other and the congregation.

**REGISTERS:** It is no longer required to keep a register of those attending services for the purposes of contact tracing. This also applies to weddings and funerals.

**DISTANCE:** A physical distance of 1 m must be maintained between people, unless they are occupants of the same private residence.

Other COVID-19 protocols that remain in place for places of worship are:

- **CAPACITY:** Depending on the size of the church building, a maximum of 250 people is permitted to attend a service, or the number of people able to be accommodated while maintaining a distance of one metre between households (whichever is less). This includes funerals and weddings.
- **FUNERALS:** If a church building is used for a viewing prior to a funeral, a maximum of 50 people is permitted at any given time.
- **CONGREGATIONAL SINGING:** is permitted if masks are worn.
- **RECEPTIONS:** held following funerals, weddings, or fellowship time after a service, are limited to 25 people, and food and beverages may only be shared if they are served to individuals at their seat and/or they are prepared in a self-contained box or wrapper ahead of time.

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY SERVICES A number of you have asked about how best to handle capacity around the Christmas festivities since numbers of attendees traditionally have been larger than current capacity limits. It is recommended that you advertise on social media platforms and your website, and local newspapers if it is your custom, that pre-registration is required because of capacity limits being observed during the pandemic. This way people who will be looking to find out what time your service is at will also note that they need to call/sign-up ahead of time to reserve their space.

A reminder that these guidelines may change if the current pandemic conditions change. It is important that we continue to exercise caution and follow the diocesan guidelines and Public Health directives.

The Diocesan Guidelines for Re-opening Church Buildings (August 7, 2020) and Revised Phase III Worship Guidelines (September 15, 2021) can be found online at:  
<https://www.montreal.anglican.ca/covid19-response>

Government updates can be found online at: <https://bit.ly/3hyPYUw>

If you have any questions about COVID-19 protocols, please do not hesitate to be in touch, or in my absence to contact your Territorial Archdeacon.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Canave" followed by a cross symbol.