



ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL

The Venerable Robert Camara
Executive Archdeacon & Vicar General

February 15, 2022 (revised)

Dear colleagues,

Last week the Quebec government announced further clarification on its re-opening timeline which effects places of worship in regards to worship itself and the use of our buildings for non-worship activity. This afternoon, after sending out this letter, the government made a further announcement about vaccine passports and capacity limits. Please find below a revised version of some clarification regarding what additional changes can be expected and the time line proposed:

INDOOR SERVICES: Attendance is currently restricted to 50% of a church building's capacity, up to a maximum of 250 people. Masks must be worn at all times, a distance of one metre maintained between households, and hand sanitizer made available. Those attending services (aged 13 and older) must have their vaccination passports verified at the door using the Quebec government's *VaxiCode Verif* application, which is freely available for download at the Apple Store or Google Play. According to the government's guidelines, paid staff (including musicians), volunteers required to assist with the service, and individuals who are homeless are not required to present a vaccination passport. A further exception has been made for funerals, which is detailed below. When possible, efforts should be made to provide access to the sacraments to unvaccinated individuals outside of church buildings. As of **Monday, February 21**, attendance is restricted to 50% of a church building's capacity, up to a maximum of 500 people with the same restrictions as listed above. *Vaccine passports are no longer required for places of worship.* As of **Monday, February 28** attendance is permitted to be 100% of a church building's capacity, with the restrictions listed above.

FUNERALS & WEDDINGS: Funerals and weddings may proceed as outlined above.

SINGING: Congregational singing is permitted with the use of masks. Choirs are permitted, so long as the members of the choir wear procedural masks while singing and they remain two meters apart from each other and the congregation (CNESST).

COFFEE HOUR: As of **Monday, February 21**, In-person coffee hours and other fellowship gatherings after service are permitted so long as masks are worn at all times (except when eating and drinking), a distance of one metre maintained between households, and hand sanitizer made available. Coffee and food should be served by a designated person who is wearing a mask and gloves.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: As of **Monday, February 21**, Sunday school and other forms of Christian education can take place in person if participants wear masks and remain one meter apart. *Vaccine*

passports are no longer required for places of worship. As of Monday, February 28, no restrictions will be in place regarding room capacity.

HALL RENTALS: As of Monday, February 21, the rental of church halls is permitted, with a maximum capacity of 50 persons and proof of vaccination. As of Monday, March 14, the rental of church halls is permitted with no capacity limit without proof of vaccination.

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETINGS: As of Monday, February 21, public gatherings such as meetings are permitted under public health guidelines with a limit of 50% capacity of the room.

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me or your territorial archdeacon.

Blessings,

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