

FOR CHURCH MEMBERS, VISITORS, GROUPS, RENTERS

COVID-19 PROTOCOL 9TH VERSION
ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH, HAMILTON ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022

PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY

COVID SYMPTOMS “SELF-ASSESSMENT” POSTED ON ALL ENTRY DOORS – Everyone entering the building is asked to read the “Self-Assessment” page posted. If you are showing or experiencing any of the symptoms listed, please do not enter the building for any reason.

COVID-19 symptoms can vary -

- from person-to-person
- in different age groups
- depending on the COVID-19 variant

Some of the more commonly reported symptoms include:

- sore throat • runny nose • sneezing • new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • temperature equal to or more than 38°C
- feeling feverish • chills • fatigue or weakness • muscle or body aches
- new loss of smell or taste • headache • abdominal pain, diarrhea, and vomiting
- feeling very unwell

If you don't feel well or if you have any symptoms, even if mild, assume you may have COVID-19. Immediately isolate at home and away from others. Check with your local public health authority for more advice, including where and how to get tested if recommended.

You may be infected, but not have symptoms; however, you can still spread the virus to others. You may develop symptoms later (be pre-symptomatic) or never develop symptoms (be asymptomatic)

If you've been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, contact your local public health authority for advice on what to do next.

By entering this building, you acknowledge that you have read and understand these guidelines.

Public Health of Ontario

Considering the latest guideline changes and the Board's concern for the safety of our congregation, the following rules regarding attendance at services and events at St. Andrew's United Church will apply:

SANCTUARY/WORSHIP

STAFF SPACE: Please respect the physical boundaries put in place for our staff in the sanctuary.

SANITIZING HANDS: Sanitizer will continue to be made available at all entrances, in C.E. Hall, meeting rooms, kitchen and washrooms.

MASK WEARING: In accordance with provincial guidelines, **in-person Sunday worship resumed Sunday, March 6, 2022**, with masks worn, 6' social distancing. **Effective March 21, 2022**, mask wearing is optional (an individual's personal choice) according to provincial guidelines; however, mask wearing is encouraged in the sanctuary.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: As provincial guidelines continue to change; all sanctuary seating has been reopened to provide maximum space for safe seating.

LIVE STREAMING: Live streaming of the Sunday services will continue.

VENTILATION: Fans are still not encouraged by Public Health; therefore, ventilation will be provided by opening windows. Dress accordingly.

SINGING: "Low-key singing" will be permitted with or without masks. **Choir** will not resume until further notice. **Solos and readings** will resume in a safe manner, respecting distancing, and masking rules.

HYMN BOOKS AND BIBLES: These items will sit for a week before being used again; therefore, they may be used during a Sunday service by individual choice.

OFFERINGS: The Finance Committee has suggested that PAR, Canada Helps website or cheques mailed to the Church Office be avenues for donation if possible. The offering plates will continue to be available at the front and back entrances to the sanctuary for Sunday service offerings. Thank you for continuing to support St. Andrew's as the church continues to require maintenance, heating, water, and staffing.

C.E. HALL AND REMAINING CHURCH ROOMS

C.E. HALL EVENTS/OUTSIDE GROUPS: were resumed effective Tuesday March 2, 2022, with masks worn unless seated and drinking or eating and social distancing. **Effective March 21, 2022**, masks are not mandatory in most public settings. While respecting individual choice, masks are encouraged to be worn when gathering near others in the church.

WASHROOMS: We continue to suggest that one person at a time enter the washrooms and request that counter, sink, etc., be wiped after using.

On April 27, 2022 – COVID-19 provincial guidelines may change again to "discontinue all COVID-19 restrictions". St. Andrew's will follow these changes; however, for the safety of our congregation members masks will still be encouraged in some settings.

The St. Andrew's Board is carefully taking these measures to protect everyone using the building. After March 21st, it will be up to each individual to decide how they are going to protect themselves and others. It is out of respect of everyone's personal choices, regarding our safety, that we will move forward and keep St. Andrew's a safe space.