

St. Hilda's Anglican Church (Fairbank)

COVID-19 Safety Protocols for Reopening of Buildings for Worship

As we look forward to welcoming you to the re-opening of St. Hilda's Anglican Church (Fairbank) on Sunday, September 13, 2020 as part of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario's **Amber Stage** of the guidelines that are concurrent with the Ontario provincial government's Phase 3 of re-opening, you will notice various changes that have been incorporated as part of COVID-19 safety protocols. Some of the safety measures are similar to what you may have seen at grocery stores, retail stores, medical offices, banks, etc.

The COVID-19 safety protocols that have been initiated include:

- Online services that are being offered in addition to in-person worship.
- Your mindful consideration to stay home if you have a fever, cough, are symptomatic or have been around anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days prior to the in-service gathering for corporate worship.
- The maximum capacity of 80 persons for in-service gatherings for corporate worship at either 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.
 - Because the same liturgy will be held at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., parishioners are encouraged to consider attending the earlier service.
 - Advanced bookings to attend either the 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. service is required.
- Signage and floor markers that signify adequate physical distancing of 6 feet or 2 metres at all times, as well as to indicate directions of movement through the space.
- Applying the appropriate physical distancing of 6 feet or 2 metres between individuals/family groupings in the pews.
- Signage stating the number of people who are permitted in the elevator at one time.
- Signage stating the number of people permitted in the washroom at one time (excluding the washrooms that are designated for a single person's use).
- The placement of hand sanitizers prominently at entrances and throughout the church which must be used upon entering the building and other times specified.
- Parishioners bringing and using an appropriate face covering such as a re-usable cloth face mask; a single-use non-surgical face mask; or a face shield with the exception of those who are:
 - Children under the age of two;
 - Individuals with a medical condition that makes it difficult to wear a mask;
 - or
 - Individuals who are unable to put on or remove a mask without assistance.
- The church's completion of a confidential contact logbook upon the attendees' arrival at church to ensure that they have provided information for contact tracing if required.

- Heightened disinfection of high-touch areas: doorknobs; elevator buttons; bannisters; railings; the backs, tops, and arms of pews; washroom facilities; etc.
- The liturgy being projected on the new overhead screens that are appropriately located throughout the church (parishioners are welcome to bring their own prayer books).
- Holy Communion will be administered in the pews. Since alternate pews will be used Clergy will administer by using unused pews as access points.
- No congregational/choral singing as a necessary precaution to prevent the unintentional spread of saliva droplets that could potentially carry the coronavirus.
- The Peace will be shared using non-contact gestures (smiles and words only) from the pews.
- Parishioners depositing their offering/envelope into a box that is prominently placed to receive them as collection plates are not to be passed person-to-person during the Offertory.
- The suspension of food and beverages that are served at coffee hour or meetings.
- Parishioners **MUST** not congregate in groups, at entrances, exits or in aisles and are required to vacate the church building as soon as each service is over. Sanitization will be done between the two services.

As pandemic conditions remain fluid, the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario's guidelines with regards to the different stages (Red Stage, Amber Stage, and Green Stage) will continue to be monitored. Once St. Hilda's Anglican Church (Fairbank) is advised to move to the next stage (whether it be the Green Stage or Red Stage), you will be advised accordingly.

By respectfully adhering to these and other COVID-19 safety protocols will ensure the safe and healthy worship and fellowship of all.

We look forward to welcoming you in person and for this time that calls us to love and care for each other.