

Covid-19 Back to the Building Plan With Revisions

Prepared by the *Back to the Building Committee*: Betty O’Neill-Allen, Reeta Sweeney, Margery Wagner, John Wagner, Terry Jones, Al Wallace, Ros Morrison, Eunice Parks, Bill Parks, and Murray Wellwood

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As Riverview United Church discerns when our building can reopen for worship, events, and meetings, the *Back to the Building Committee* made some revisions to our last report. As before, we agree that these things must be done in stages and our priority must be the safety of our congregation as well as acting in accordance with the NS Public Health Authority's directives. This updated report is based upon what we know as of Friday, September 11, 2020 from Dr. Robert Strang (NS Chief Medical Officer of Health) and Dr. Lisa Barrett (infectious disease physician at the QEII Health Science Centre & researcher at Dalhousie University).

Our first priority is to open the building for worship services and assess how the services progress before we move onto the next event. The *Back to the Building Committee* would like to make the following recommendations under what will be the "new normal" in order to open the building for worship on September 27, 2020 or sooner, providing all operational requirements are in place. We offer this plan, understanding and knowing the importance of staying informed, being prepared and following public health protocol. Realizing the many outside pressures, our decisions were made prayerfully as we consider what is best for our community of faith.

Conditions for Resumption of Worship Services

Worship is to resume in September under the following conditions:

1. Gatherings of 150 people or less (50% of our allowed occupants in the sanctuary) must follow the social distancing rules. The six feet apart rule must be maintained unless the members are of the same household or bubble. This makes it possible for larger funerals and weddings to take place in addition to worship services.
2. Hand hygiene must be practiced. This includes proper hand washing with soap and water when in the bathroom, and the use of hand sanitizers throughout the building.
3. Surfaces such as light switches, doorknobs, hand railings, taps, sinks, fridges, photocopier, pens, etc. must be cleaned regularly with household cleaners or disinfectant wipes.

4. The wearing of non-medical masks is mandatory when inside the church building and during worship services. This was a directive of the NS government on July 31, 2020.
5. Doors to areas of the building that are not in use will be locked e.g. storage room door. This will ensure that these areas are kept clean.

Parking

Pylon traffic markers will be in place to direct people coming to the building for a worship service.

Signage

Signs with Covid-19 symptoms will be posted at the church entrance and on the bulletin board.

Reception

Attendees will be screened prior to entry to the building by Betty O'Neill-Allen and asked to confirm that they have no symptoms of illness. Signs with Covid-19 symptoms will be posted at the church entrance.

The entrance doors to the narthex shall be opened during good weather. Debbie Musgrave will be at the doors to receive worshipers into the building and will remind those waiting outside, to keep a physical distance. Debbie will manage those entering and exiting these doors.

Debbie will remind worshipers about physical distancing when inside. Some people may wish to wait in their cars if too many arrive at once or if the weather is inclement. The floors will have traffic markers and directional arrows.

Hand Sanitizers & Masks

Dispensers of liquid sanitizer will be available at the church entrance and exits for worshipers to use before they enter and exit the sanctuary. Disposable masks will be available on the registration desk.

In the bathroom, signs promote the thorough washing of hands.

Registration

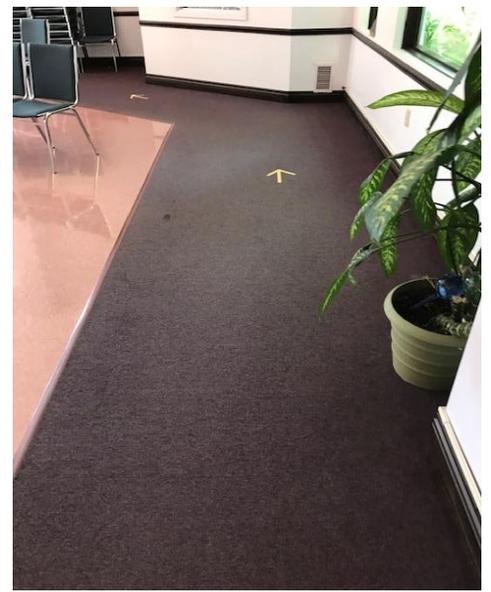
As people enter the building, Mabel Wellwood and Rosalind Morrison will sign them in while maintaining social distancing. These attendance lists are essential for contact tracing if needed at a later date. These lists will be kept in the office for 30 days and then destroyed.



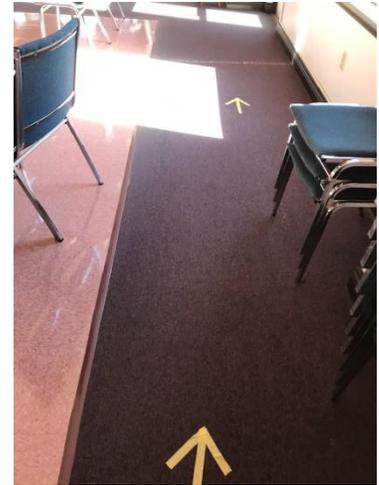
Seating

Murray Wellwood, Al Wallace and Terry Jones will assist people to their seats after sign-in. Only these three people will be allowed to rearrange seating. Walkways will be indicated by arrows.

The chairs will be arranged six feet apart in groups of one, two, three, and four for different family sizes. There is room in the choir area for a group of six or more



people. Various layouts were explored as displayed in the photographs. The recommended layout holds 54 persons. The remaining chairs at the back of the sanctuary will be roped off.



Worshippers will be asked to remain seated unless they need to go to the washroom (see section on “Washroom Usage” below). Children must remain seated with their parents or guardians throughout the service. A book or toy may be brought in for each child. Hats and coats will be taken into the sanctuary and placed on the back of one’s chair. Note that all toys, colouring books, crayons, and musical instruments for the children have been removed from the sanctuary.

Hymns, Singing, and the Sound System

Hymn books and bulletins will not be used. The order of worship will be projected on the screen. Chris Rodrigue will work the sound system. He will be trained by Wade Stubbington. Wade will be a back-up when Chris is not available.

There will be no singing. Pre-recorded music is an option. There may be a soloist but that person must stay 12 feet away from the congregation. Martha Healy and David Fizzard

will be the only persons to use the piano and organ. These instruments are not to be touched by anyone else for hygiene reasons. Special instructions for cleaning of these instruments will be provided to the cleaners.

The microphones are to be sanitized after each use by a different person.

It was brought to our attention that some would appreciate live streaming of the service. Knowing that there is a large fee for this, plus the church having poor internet speed, live streaming may not be possible. This topic is beyond the purview of the committee.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Kim Curlett will be the only speaker and reader. She will make all the announcements.



Personal Contact During and After Worship

The “Passing of the Peace” will only be by non-contact methods e.g. hand waves, prayer hands, nods.

There will be no after church fellowship.

Offering & Food Bank

There will be an offering plate at both doors. The offering can be dropped in these plates when entering or exiting the sanctuary.

Only monetary donations for the food bank will be accepted. These can be put in the offering plates with “Foodbank” or “FB” marked on the envelope.

There will be gloves available for the money handlers; Pat Spicer and Gary Smiley.

Sunday School

The Sunday School teachers suggested that Sunday School begin the first Sunday that our building is opened for worship. It is important that all children are registered so that there is a record kept of each child, especially now during the pandemic.

Sunday School will be held upstairs in the hall.

The Sunday School teachers will be responsible for the children during the time of the worship service. This includes washroom duty to make sure all hands are properly washed before leaving the washrooms. The teachers will ensure safe set-up for classes.

Baptisms

Each child will be held only by the parents or those in their bubble. Rev. Kim Curlett will sanitize her hands before the baptism. Individual cups of water will be used for each child or adult. These cups can be placed in the font if desired.

Communion

Worshippers are to bring their own communion e.g. crackers and a drink. This ensures that these items do not get contaminated by others. There will be a limited number of small, individual cups of juice and crackers on hand for distribution if necessary. Betty is investigating the prices of individual pre-wrapped elements.

Exiting the Sanctuary

The back door is not an option for exiting for people with mobility issues. The slope is too steep, lacks sufficient railing, and can be slippery in inclement weather. Those with mobility issues may exit using the front doors.

Able-bodied people will be encouraged to use the back door but will be permitted to use the front doors if they desire.

When the service is ended, Debbie Musgrave will be at the exit narthex door and Jane Parker will be at the rear exit door of the sanctuary. Betty Allen will be available to help if needed. Murray, Al and Terry will direct people to the exit areas. For safe exiting and social distancing, the floors will have traffic markers and directional arrows.

Post-worship Care of Sanctuary

When worship is over and the sanctuary is empty, the doors to the sanctuary will be closed and no entry will be allowed for 72 hours. This is to ensure that whatever viruses may be on the chairs, pulpit, tables, and other furniture will die within this time frame. This procedure was provided by the NS Public Health Dept. Betty will wipe down the door plates, doorknobs, sign-in tables, pens, and light switches with sanitizing wipes.

Washroom Usage

The ladies' washroom is limited to three people at a time while maintaining physical distancing, unless they belong to the same family. Three stalls and one sink have been closed in the ladies' washroom in order to reduce the amount of cleaning needed as well as to ensure social distancing.



The men's washroom is limited to one person at a time, or to an adult with their children. The urinal is closed, as is one sink. This is to reduce the amount of cleaning needed.



According to Dr. Lisa Barrett, the chance of a public washroom in and of itself being risky is not the case with Covid-19 because Covid-19 is a respiratory virus. It mainly spreads through droplets that come from a person talking, coughing or sneezing. A person gets infected if they come in close contact with a sick person or when they touch a contaminated object, e.g. a tap or counter, then touch their face before washing their hands. Keeping a safe distance from others, there is little chance of getting infected. It is important to keep a public washroom sanitary, but this is no more important than it would be on a regular day or season. This is because public washrooms are a spreading ground for all kinds of infectious viruses that people need protection from all year. Dr. Barrett said a washroom does not have to be cleaned after each use nor six, seven or eight times a day. A person can judge the cleanliness of a public washroom by looking before using it. The most important issue is proper handwashing before leaving the



washroom. Using paper towel is better than air dryers because of airflow from the dryers.

Hygiene rules will be posted in both bathrooms at Riverview United.

Accessibility

Murray Wellwood, Al Wallace and Terry Jones will assist people to their seats and adjust the seating arrangement for placement of those with wheelchairs.

The chairlift will be available and cleaned regularly.

The washrooms are wheelchair accessible.

The back door is not an option for exiting for people with mobility issues. The slope is too steep, lacks sufficient railing, and can be slippery in inclement weather. Those with mobility issues may exit using the front doors.

Supplies Required

We have sanitizing wipes, sanitizer gel, gloves, disposable masks, and cleaning supplies to last for three to four months. This is a trial-and-error situation as far as quantities go. The committee is not sure what is needed in numbers. It depends on how many attend church and how many of these items are used in a month. With our financial situation in mind, we will monitor how many of these items are used weekly. Betty will take care of this for the first while, and, once we have some numbers, she will order more supplies. We should have enough in stock now for at least three or four months.

..... End of Report