

Our desire is to glorify God by becoming a Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered church – making Jesus known among us, around us, beyond us.

FAQ: COVID 19 AND VICTORIA ALLIANCE CHURCH

In light of the news coming out about the new COVID19 pandemic, we want to assure the people in our faith community that we are monitoring the situation closely, and making moves that will help us best continue to serve one another while balancing the need to be cautious as we gather.

Please take a few moments to read through the FAQ provided below, and let us know if you have any other questions or concerns that we can help to address by contacting us at office@victoriaalliance.ca

Will we continue to hold Sunday church services?

This Sunday we will continue to host our regular Sunday services, 9am and 10:45am. As this is a fluid situation, the best way to stay informed about our faith community plans is to visit our website: victoriaalliance.ca

Please keep in mind the following considerations:

- all congregants are encouraged to practice regular hand washing/sanitizing and avoiding touching your face
- cover your mouth when coughing or cough into a tissue or your elbow
- refrain from customary greetings like handshakes or hugging during this time
- those that are ill, even mildly, are to remain at home

What measures are we taking to protect our community from COVID19?

- We are continuing to monitor the situation closely, and staff are connecting daily to update any required measures.
- We have communicated to our cleaners the need to be sanitizing high touch areas, and we are working to ensure our soap, and paper products are well stocked.
- We have temporarily suspended our use of a weekly printed bulletin. You may pick up a copy from the table beside the office, but we will not be handing them out at the doors. Our bulletin is always available online.
- We have instructed our greeters to warmly welcome folks with a wave – and we will be instructing our community to do the same.
- We have temporarily suspended coffee service. Please feel free to bring hot or cold drinks with you from home.
- We will be temporarily altering our method for collecting the offering. The baskets will not be passed, rather there will be a clearly marked box at the rear of the sanctuary for you to place your offerings in. Online or e-transfer methods for giving are available as always.

What about kids ministry?

At this point our children's Sunday morning programming continues unchanged. We will be monitoring our ability to keep up with cleaning and staffing as time goes by.

We will temporarily be removing our children's quiet bags from the sanctuary. Parents are asked to bring their own items from home for use during the service.

Parents are asked to keep any child home who is unwell, has had a fever or vomited within the previous 24 hours, or has had recent contact with anyone who is unwell. Perhaps cuddle up together at home and listen to one of these bible story audio recordings:

<https://kidscorner.reframemedia.com/bible-stories>

What is the faith response to this pandemic?

Our role today is the same as ever – though far more significant perhaps. We are to be light in the darkness. We are to bring hope to the hopeless. We are to be confident in Christ alone. We are to love our neighbours. We are to serve one another. We are to be the non-anxious presence in the room.

There will be many temptations to withdraw, to hoard resources, to fret, to take care of ourselves. Be wise, of course. Wash your hands, stay home if ill, care for your family, and be prepared. But also be generous ministers of the gospel. Check in with your neighbours. Consider how you might support those in your community who are not able to care for family members due to illness. Share shopping duties. Generously offer what you have to those in need. Smile freely. Pray continually. We are connected to the supernatural power of Jesus' presence in all circumstances. Let Jesus be carried well into our communities.

What changes should I expect?

On our Sunday morning service you will note the following changes:

- Greetings will be done with a friendly wave. We will refrain from handshakes and hugs.
- There will be no printed bulletin. Bulletin information is available at:
<https://www.victoriaalliance.ca/news/weekly-sunday-bulletin>
- There will be no coffee service. Please feel free to bring your own coffee or tea from home!
- There will be no kid quiet bags. Parents are encouraged to bring their own items from home, or just let us hear your kids – we love the sound of their energy!
- Offering will be collected into a well marked box at the rear of the sanctuary. Online giving or e-transfers are available as always. For more information about giving options, visit:
<https://www.victoriaalliance.ca/give>
- We will require your increased flexibility. As we are encouraging all volunteers who are not 100% well to stay home, we may need to make adjustments on the fly. Thank you in advance for your patience.

What will go unchanged?

We remain on the task of glorifying God by becoming a Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered church making Jesus known among us, around us, beyond us. This is unchanged whether we gather or not. Wherever you are, you are the church. This is a unique opportunity to revisit what it means to make Jesus known where you are. Be light in the world.

Who should come to church gatherings?

Only those who feel comfortable with the decision to be in a gathering of about 75 – 100 people should come to our church gatherings. This is absolutely a “no-guilt” decision.

Who should stay home?

Anyone who is not feeling 100% well is encouraged to stay home. Those who are ill, even mildly, are to remain at home and are welcome to connect to us through one of our online messages found here: <https://www.victoriaalliance.ca/podcasts/media>

You may also find this blog on staying home helpful: <https://www.victoriaalliance.ca/blog/staying-home>

How do I stay updated about this?

The best way as always to stay connected to the happenings around our church are to sign up for our church email newsletter on [victoriaalliance.ca](https://www.victoriaalliance.ca) or here: <https://www.victoriaalliance.ca/ministries/newsletter-sign-up>

What sources are we relying upon to make decisions?

We have been monitoring the following sites for ongoing information:

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/diseases-conditions/novel-coronavirus-information>

[http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))

<https://pacificdistrict.ca/covid-19-church/>