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December 7, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Today, December 7, 2020, the provincial health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry extended the November 19 health order suspending in-person public worship, social and community events and gatherings—whether indoors or outdoors—until at least January 8 as part of [widespread measures being implemented across the province](#). This order will be reviewed by provincial health officials and updates will be reported as they are made. This order goes into effect today.

In terms of parish life, the diocese is extending the suspension of **all in-person worship, gatherings, events and meetings (indoors and outdoors) until at least January 10**. Church facilities can still be used by staff with adherence to safety protocols, though staff who can work from home are encouraged to do so. It is permissible to pre-record or live-stream worship for remote participation.

Weddings and funerals (excluding receptions) will be permitted during this period with a maximum attendance of 10 people, including the celebrant, providing they adhere to the parish's approved safety plan.

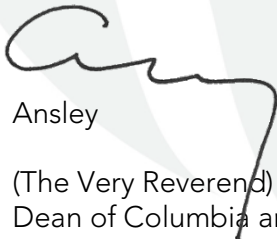
Further, as announced on November 30, we are encouraging the diocese (all parishes and synod office) to take a much-needed sabbath leave from December 26 to January 2. This means that all staff, clergy and laity—to whatever extent possible—have this week off and are not expected to provide a service of worship (online) on Sunday, December 27.

External community user groups should be advised to consult the [provincial health order](#) for further information as to how these restrictions apply to them. Parishes may decline to host groups for safety reasons at their discretion.

Masks must be worn, by those who can, in all common areas of our facilities.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping our communities safe during the season of anticipation and waiting.

Blessings,



Ansley
(The Very Reverend) M. Ansley Tucker
Dean of Columbia and diocesan administrator