

As the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is actively spreading through the population around us, we as elders are concerned to do all we can to protect the health of all who belong to the WBC community, and all who meet with us on Sunday mornings. As you may be aware, the province is now requiring that everyone who attends non-essential gatherings be vaccinated, and we will be complying with that directive. This means that it will be a requirement for everyone attending WBC meetings other than Sunday morning services to be fully vaccinated.

We believe that the effectiveness of the vaccine has been clearly demonstrated in preventing infection from COVID-19, or at least in reducing the risk of serious illness to those infected. Those who choose not to receive the vaccine are not only placing themselves at risk, but are placing the people they contact at increased risk of infection. We are therefore strongly encouraging everyone who attends WBC services, and who had not been vaccinated, to get vaccinated as quickly as possible.

The elders are concerned for the health and safety of everyone who attends on a Sunday morning. Since we have quite a few people who are immune-compromised and therefore at greater risk of serious illness, face masks will now be a requirement for attendance on a Sunday morning. (This is in line with the new health order issued by the BC Government.)

In order to protect those we love and care for, we would like people to observe distancing when seated and to keep their masks on while singing. During the announcements, preaching and communion the wearing of masks will be optional. (This will place us in a similar situation as restaurants with dine-in guests.)

The face mask requirement will be reassessed from time to time.

Thank you all for your understanding and continued support during these unprecedented times.

*WBC Elders*

August 29, 2021