



Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

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October 22nd, 2021

Food Service Guidelines for NS

Receptions and Other Shared Meals

October 22, 2021

1. You must consider seating arrangements that meet the diocesan expectations for maintaining physical distancing. Just because a table seats 8 does not mean you can seat 8. While public health has suspended limits in Phase 5, the Diocese still requires the observance of “bubbles” for physical distancing at gatherings like receptions and shared meals. Our suggestion is that you limit bubbles to a maximum of 8 persons.
2. Unless you are using a ticketing service that tracks participants (some parishes use things like Eventbrite or an electronic database to register for seating), you must do a contact tracing list that remains on file for a minimum of 30 days. Because this list contains personal contact information, it must be stored securely. Because these guidelines are not for worship services, proof of vaccination is required for all participants over the age of 12 (unless a provincial medical exemption is provided) and those under 12 must be accompanied by a fully vaccinated designated guardian for this particular event. Public Health expectation is that each person shares this proof of vaccination information each time. It is strongly discouraged that this information be kept or stored in any way as it is of the most confidential nature of record keeping, that being medical information. The risk of storing medical information far exceeds the inconvenience of checking POV regularly.
3. Alcohol-based sanitizing stations should be readily available at least at each point of entry (and more if a large venue).
4. All public health food and beverage service regulations must be observed (i.e. nothing prepared outside the church kitchen, refrigeration guidelines, food temp guidelines, regular covid surface cleaning, covid ventilation for gatherings, individual food safety training, and all public health cleanup and dish sanitation guidelines).

5. Food may not be distributed "family style." It may be distributed "buffet style" which means items are on a public buffet table but only designated servers may access the food. There can be a common vessel but only one person accesses that vessel for service. If recipients are to line up for food, it must be individually wrapped/secured (not open serving, like a bowl of fruit or plate of cookies from which to choose) and people must observe physical distancing in the line-up. The preferred method of serving is that food distribution be table-side service. Table condiments should be single serving portions (i.e. ketchup packages, butter pats, creamers).
6. Servers must remain masked but table companions may remove mask once seated and while enjoying their meal. Kitchen staff (dishwashers, sous chefs, cooks, etc.) must remain masked throughout their shifts. Any movement throughout the venue requires masks as well.
7. Consider communication prior to the event or activities taking place that outline preventive measures to attendees, suppliers, volunteers and others who are attending the activities.
8. Communicate to participants, workers, and volunteers in advance of the event, the importance of staying home if feeling sick. Please recommend this self-check link to your workers and attendees:
<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>
9. Post signage at the venue/facility entrances that discourages attendees, volunteers, and others from coming into the venue or facility when sick, encourages them to practice good hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette, to get tested when two or more COVID-19 symptoms develop, and to stay home until well.
10. Keep signs visible (including back of house) to remind employees, patrons, and participants to properly hand wash or sanitize and to use good respiratory hygiene practices.

The above applies to Nova Scotia and is culled from NS public health and covid-19 protocols.



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