

Communicable Illness Protocol Policy for Victoria Alliance Church

(Formerly referred to as Covid 19 Protocol Policy)

Effective May 28 2022

Preamble

Currently our provincial government has not placed any restrictions or requirements due to communicable illness upon church related gatherings in our health authority. There are, however, many [best practices](#) that have been recommended while Covid 19 continues to circulate in our community, and the latitude granted to each local church to develop and enforce their own Communicable Illness policies.

It is the desire of the VAC leadership to provide clarity for all our community, and do our best to balance public safety with our high value of inclusion. No policy will be able to perfectly balance this tension. Instead we will adopt the imperfect, but clearly communicated policy below.

Worship Services

To ensure there are always options to participate in our worshipping community, we will provide an online worship alternative. This option is encouraged for all those who are unable to accept the risks outlined below.

We require all on-site attendees to perform a [personal health check](#) in advance of attendance and refrain from on site meetings if they, or a member of their household, have been unwell (fever, vomiting, worsening cough) in the previous 48 hours.

We require good hygiene practices be supported with ease of access to hand-washing and/or hand-sanitizing stations.

We highly recommend all on-site volunteers to be fully vaccinated in line with PHO recommendations. Volunteers who choose to serve in on-site roles do so aware that there may be risks of coming in contact with communicable illnesses associated with doing so. Each volunteer assumes responsibility to make their own decisions regarding their chosen approach to mitigating such risks.

We encourage all who attend our on-site indoor worship services to be fully vaccinated in line with PHO recommendations. *Please note:* If you are attending our on site worship services, you should do so willing to accept the risk that there may be attendees present who are not fully vaccinated.

As social distance is a challenge to maintain within our facility during our Sunday worship service times, we recommend attendees, volunteers, and staff over 12 years old wear a properly fitting mask.

Please note: If you are attending our on site worship services, you should do so willing to accept the risk that there may be attendees present who are not masked. If you choose not to wear a mask, please be considerate to maintain social distance whenever possible.

We encourage mutual consent before engaging in physical greetings.

Please note: We ask that you practice a great measure of awareness and compassion

for those whose needs for social distance may differ from yours. Please ensure mutual consent in your social interactions.

Discretionary Indoor Events/Meetings

Our church values community that is marked by diversity, safety, and the well being of all. Therefore, the following policies shall apply to all discretionary gatherings associated with Victoria Alliance Church, whether on or off-site:

We require all attendees to perform a [personal health check](#) in advance of attendance, and refrain from in-person meetings if they, or a member of their household, have been unwell (fever, vomiting, worsening cough, etc) in the previous 48 hours. As our other restrictions ease, this requirement becomes our most effective measure for limiting the spread of illness.

We require good hygiene practices be supported with ease of access to hand-washing or hand-sanitizing stations at all indoor events/gatherings.

We recommend all attendees 12 years and older wear a properly fitting mask when gathering indoors, unless you are seated and able to maintain adequate social distance. Should you choose not to wear a mask, please be considerate to ensure social distance wherever possible.

Children's Ministry

Please note the following policies for our Children's ministry:

We require all attendees to perform a [personal health check](#) in advance of attendance, and refrain from attending if they, or a member of their household, have been unwell in the previous 48 hours. As health restrictions ease, this measure becomes our most effective way to limit the spread of illness.

Paid Staff

Due to the frequent interactions our staff has with community members who are among vulnerable populations, it is the policy of Victoria Alliance Church that all **paid staff be required to provide proof of Covid-19 vaccination**.

Food and Beverage Service

Food and beverage service is permitted at indoor functions in keeping with all Food Safe measures.

Updated and Board Approved May 25, 2022