



Bethany United Church

Minister: Rev. Kevin Little

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Vincent Ihasz

Music Director: Shawn Whynot

Community Engagement Ministry: Ann Bradley

Children and Family Care Ministry: Louisa Duck

Finance Officer: Tina Gascon

Ministry Resource Support: Dana Mills

Caretaker: James Sweet

IPIT Statement – June 2023

The In-Person Implementation Team (IPIT) recently met to review the status of Covid guidelines and recommendations for Bethany United Church. Over the last few years, we have steadily increased activities at Bethany as we have relaxed Covid restrictions given the changing epidemiology of Covid while also following the recommendations from Dr. R. Strang and the Public Health Department.

In late May 2023, there was an update to Nova Scotia's Covid-19 response and the recommendation now is that Covid will be treated like similar respiratory viruses. Thus, the Covid-related Health Protection Act Order is no longer necessary, and the mandatory vaccination protocol has been lifted. Dr. Strang has indicated that personal measures that protect us against Covid-19 will also protect us against influenza and other respiratory illnesses. Covid-19 no longer requires an emergency-type response.

Thus, there is no longer a need at Bethany to mandate public health measures such as the wearing of protective masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing, or the requirement for Covid vaccinations. That does not mean that Public Health measures are not recommended.

We suggest the following:

- If unwell, please do not attend Bethany gatherings.
- Please feel free to wear a protective mask if you choose that is the best for you.
- Please hand sanitize when entering the facility and when entering the Fellowship Hall for food and beverage consumption.
- These are not Covid specific directives but are common-sense recommendations to help protect us all from many communicable diseases.
- There will not be a need to document ("signing in") when entering the Facility as part of Covid-tracking but there remains a need to sign-in for other security reasons.
- There is a Kitchen Committee that will review guidelines for appropriate kitchen use processes and safe food handling practices.
- Preparation and serving of Communion will be guided by the members of the Worship Committee and Session.

Given that the IPIT was formed to address Covid-related issues and that the Covid epidemiology is no longer felt to require an emergency-type response, the IPIT will recess and will not have further meetings unless epidemiologic concerns arise.

Sincerely,

Charles Maxner, Glen Knapp, Pam Carter, Elizabeth Carter, Bev Grant, Shawn Whynot, Louisa Duck, and Dana Mills

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

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