

## **Places of Worship in the Yellow Alert Level**

### **Are masks and physical distancing required in places of worship?**

Yes. People attending places of worship must stay two metres apart from those outside of their household bubble (Steady 15) and everyone is required to wear a mask at all times.

Officiants and participants (e.g. clergy, readers, marrying couple, singers) who are performing activities that require vocalization like talking or singing at a faith gathering, wedding, funeral, social event, etc. are exempt from wearing a mask but they should stay four metres away from others during their reading or recital. Parishioners are permitted to sing, however masks must be worn, and two metres of distance must be in place, for singing to be permitted.

### **Is singing permitted in the Yellow Alert Level?**

Yes, singing is permitted but masks must be worn, and two metres of distance must be in place. Singing is a high-risk activity during a pandemic.

### **Do officiants and performers have to wear a mask?**

Performers or officiants who are performing activities that require vocalization like talking or singing at a faith gathering, wedding, funeral, social event, etc. are exempt from wearing a mask if they stay at least four metres away from others during their vocalization. They must wear their masks at all other times.

### **How many people are permitted to attend a faith gathering?**

Faith venues are permitted to have participants up to a maximum of 50% of the buildings maximum occupant load. Outdoor personal gatherings such as weddings or funerals may have up to 50 people and must have an operational plan in place.

### **Can officiants distribute communion to people at a faith gathering?**

For services which involve communion, pre-packaged units may be considered, or using tongs to place communion in the parishioner's hand (no contact). Before services, encourage parishioners to bring their own hand sanitizer. Eucharistic ministers must wash hands and always maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres or use barriers. While maintaining greater than 2 metres from others and after washing hands, parishioners may collect communion and return to their seats. Masks can be removed to receive communion **only** when 2 metres of physical distancing, in all directions, is maintained. Masks must be reattached immediately after taking communion followed by cleaning of hands with parishioner's own hand sanitizer.

### **Who is unable to wear a face mask?**

Some people are not able to wear masks for various reasons. It's important to remember that these reasons may not always be visible to others. New Brunswickers should always treat each other with kindness, respect and understanding.

Examples of people who may be unable to wear a mask in a place of worship include:

- Children under the age of two;
- People with a medical condition, including a mental health disorder, that affects their ability to wear a mask.

Note: between the ages of two and five, children may be able to wear a mask if supervised. This will depend on their ability to tolerate it as well as put it on and take it off.

It is recommended that people unable to wear a mask avoid, as much as possible, crowded places, including faith gatherings, weddings, and funerals.