



COVID-19 — Gatherings

Information about COVID-19 continues to evolve, and our position right now is that the safest, most loving way to get together for any Meeting House gathering is to do so online. Therefore, **The Meeting House large or small gatherings will remain online for the duration of the summer.** We do recognize that some Home Churches or small groups may choose *on their own initiative* to meet outdoors; however these are not official Meeting House gatherings. Here is where our guidelines come into play: we want people to know, if they do choose to meet informally, what best practices they should follow.

At this time, any gatherings are to be held outside. While meeting online remains the safest way to interact, health experts agree that when combined with physical distancing and fresh air, the health risks are reduced when outside.

Vulnerable individuals or those with chronic conditions are to determine the appropriateness of attending a gathering.

Individuals must not attend any gatherings if they have travelled outside the province within the past two weeks; are living with/have been exposed to anyone with symptoms of, or who tested positive for, COVID-19; or are sick or not feeling well.

Planning the Event

- Sanitize any common surfaces prior to and after the event.
- Ensure the number of participants does not exceed the number prescribed by provincial health authorities.
- Check that the space being used can always accommodate people staying six feet apart.

Masks

- Masks are required in the event that participants are not able to stay six feet apart at all times. (Exceptions include anyone with a relevant medical condition or disability that prohibits them from wearing a mask, as well as young children under the age of two.)
- For events requiring a mask, it is recommended to keep the duration one hour or less as some participants may feel uncomfortable wearing a mask for a longer period of time.
- The recommended use of masks is evolving, so be sure to adhere to public health directives.

Attendance

- A best practice is to keep a record of who attends the event in case someone is later diagnosed with COVID-19 and contact tracing needs to occur.
- Be sure to record each person's first and last name, email address, and phone number.

At the Event

- Practice physical distancing (six feet distance from others).
- The organizer should remind participants that if any of them is diagnosed with COVID-19 within two weeks of the gathering, they must let the organizer know.
- Singing is not allowed at events as it is a proven way the virus is transmitted.
- Children must remain with their family unit at all times.
- No shared food or drink.