

Covid 19 Protocol Policy for Victoria Alliance Church

Effective December 1, 2021

Worship Services

Currently our provincial government has not placed any restrictions or requirements upon worship services in our health authority. There are, however, many [best practices](#) that have been recommended, and the latitude granted to each local church to develop and enforce their own Covid 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 an imperfect, but clearly communicated policy as follows:

- **We will provide an online worship alternative** for all those who are not yet fully vaccinated, those who are unable to wear a mask for the duration of the services, and for those who are unable to accept the risks outlined below.
- **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) 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 require all in-person volunteers over 12 years old to be fully vaccinated.** We will accept a personal attestation to one's vaccination status.
- **We encourage all who attend our in-person indoor worship services to be fully vaccinated.** *Please note:* We will not be requiring proof of vaccination for attendees at this time. If you are attending our in person worship services, you should do so willing to accept the risk that there may be attendees present who are not yet fully vaccinated.
- **We require all attendees and volunteers over 5 years old to wear a properly fitting mask at all times.** The only exceptions to this requirement will be when an approved staff member or volunteer is actively leading the singing, preaching, or speaking to address the full congregation, or when the congregation is actively participating in the Lord's Table.
- **Wherever possible, attendees are to maintain social distance (2m) from anyone outside of their household.** We acknowledge that the size of our sanctuary makes it difficult to provide adequate space for social distance. If you are attending our in person worship services, you should do so willing to accept the risk that your social distance space may be compromised for the duration of the service.
- **We encourage non physical greetings to support physical distancing measures.**

Discretionary Indoor Events/Meetings

With the exception of our Worship Services, the typical meetings within the life of our church are considered to be discretionary and thus fall under the [Provincial Government guidelines](#) for in-person indoor events.

Our church values community that is marked by diversity, safety, and the well being of all. Therefore, taking into consideration the provincial government guidelines,* 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.
- **We require good hygiene practices be supported** with ease of access to hand-washing or hand-sanitizing stations at all indoor events/gatherings.
- **We require that only those who are fully vaccinated attend our in-person indoor events** (small groups, meetings, prayer times, etc). Online and outdoor options remain available for those who are not yet fully vaccinated. *Please note:* This is currently an honour-system requirement for those events attended by less than 50 people. Please help us support [peacable relations](#) between our volunteers, hosts, and other attendees by voluntarily limiting your attendance if you have not yet been fully vaccinated. For events with over 50 attendees, all attendees will be required to provide proof of vaccination.
- **We require all attendees 5 years and older to wear a properly fitting mask** at all times when gathering indoors, unless actively eating, drinking, or functioning as the primary speaker/presenter (when group is seated and distanced 2m).
- **Wherever possible, attendees are to maintain social distance** (2m) from anyone outside of their household.

*All VAC Policies for Covid-19 fall under the most current Provincial Guidelines. To view the Provincial Government guidelines for discretionary indoor events/meetings, [click here](#).

Children's Ministry

As children under the age of 12 years old have not been widely able to receive the Covid vaccination, we as a community will be taking extra measures to provide a safe and welcoming environment for these worshipers, providing options for families to choose their level of comfort in the wider community. Please note the following new policies for our Children's ministry:

- **We require ALL volunteers (12 years and older) in our Children's Ministry to be fully vaccinated one week prior to service.** We will accept a personal attestation to one's vaccination status.
- **Parents of children who desire to accompany their children during their programs are required to be fully vaccinated to do so.** We will require an attestation to being fully vaccinated for anyone who will be remaining in the kids ministry zone beyond drop off and pick up times.
- **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.
- **We will be welcoming children into our sanctuary for all worship services, including our Sunday 10:45am worship. For those families who prefer to have their children remain separate from the adult population, we will welcome them at their separate entrances for programming Sundays at 11am.**

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 vaccination.**

While in the workplace and working seated and socially distanced, staff are permitted to work without masking.

Food and Beverage Service

Food and beverage service is permitted at indoor functions in keeping with all Food Safe measures, however the consumption of all food and beverages must be done seated and socially distanced. Masks may be removed **ONLY** while actively eating and sipping, and are to be worn again immediately following.