

Covid 19 Protocol Policy for Victoria Alliance Church

Revised and approved April 7, 2022

Effective April 15, 2022

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:

- **To ensure you always have options to participate in our worshipping community, we will provide an online worship alternative.** This option is encouraged for all those who are not yet fully vaccinated, or for 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, though no longer require, all in-person volunteers over 12 years old to be fully vaccinated.** Volunteers who choose to serve in on-site roles do so aware that there may be risks of coming in contact with Covid 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.** *Please note:* We will not be requiring vaccination for attendees at this time. 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 yet fully vaccinated.
- **As social distance remains a challenge to maintain within our facility during our Sunday worship service times, we encourage all attendees over 12 years old to wear a properly fitting mask at all times.**
Please note: Although we will strongly encourage mask wearing, it is your choice. 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 require all on-site staff and volunteers over 12 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.

- **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 on-site 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.** *Please note:* With the relaxing of Covid restrictions, we also anticipate that our social practices around greetings will gradually return to our pre-Covid traditions. During such a transition, we ask that you practice a greater 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. Though recommended, this measure is your choice. Should you choose not to wear a mask, please be considerate to ensure social distance wherever possible.
- **Wherever possible, attendees are to maintain social distance (2m) from anyone outside of their household.**

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.
- **We will be welcoming children into our sanctuary for all worship services, including our Sunday morning 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 10:50am.

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.**

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 is encouraged to be seated and socially distanced.