



COVID-19 Protocols for Indoor Worship & Congregational Gatherings

As a community of faith and an employer, the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, church members, community partners, tenants and all those we serve is of utmost importance. We know things will look and feel different during this phase of reopening, but by following the protocols recommended by our health professionals, we are doing all we can to ensure that worship at East End United is a positive and safe experience for all.

Mask or Face Covering Requirement:

In compliance with the City of Toronto By-Law 541-2020, effective July 7, 2020, **all staff, volunteers, tenants, visitors and guests are required to wear a mask or face covering upon entering and remaining in the public areas of our church buildings.** The only time it is permissible not to wear a mask inside the church building is if no one else is in the building or if working alone in a room where the door can be closed.

The mask or face covering must cover the nose, mouth, and chin. Reusable masks should be at least 2 layers (cotton or linen) with ear loops.

If you are exempted from requiring a mask or face covering, please contact danielbenson@eastendunited.ca in advance of the service or gathering.

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement:

Effective November 1, 2021, East End United implemented a policy whereby anyone attending worship in person who is eligible for the full course of COVID-19 vaccine must show evidence of vaccination. Proof means documentation verifying receipt of a vaccination series approved by Health Canada or the World Health Organization.

When you arrive for worship:

As you enter the church building, there will be a table set up for a health screening, vaccination verification (if over age 12) and to sign you in. This is for contact tracing purposes. You will also be offered hand sanitizer at this time and asked COVID-19 screening questions.

Please do not enter the church if you have a temperature, feel ill, are quarantined due to travel reasons, or have been in contact with a COVID-19 positive individual over the past two weeks.

In the Sanctuary:

We ask that you keep physically distanced 6 feet/2 metres and sit only where indicated. There will be ushers offering direction and available to help should you need it. Please note that you may not be able to sit in your regular pew!

Food or drink will not be provided, so please bring your own water along if you need. Once you are seated, we ask that you not walk around to visit with other congregation members.

And while this can be really challenging ... we ask that you not sing during the service. Or rather hum or "sing with your inner voice." There may be soloists who will sing from the front of the church, however unfortunately others cannot sing along.

Leaving the Sanctuary:

Once the service is over, we ask that you continue to physically distance 6 feet/2 metres as you leave the sanctuary and not socialize in the building. Offering plates will be set out near the exits.

We thank you so much for your understanding and patience as we resume in-person worship in this new reality!

Special note: in line with guidelines set out by Toronto Public Health, every reasonable precaution has been and will continue to be taken by East End United Regional Ministry to protect your health and wellbeing. There can be no guarantees of complete protection, however, due to the higher risks of contracting viral infection through larger gatherings.

As a reminder:

Measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

Our health and safety measures and policies are not mutually exclusive from one another; they are additive to maximize safety and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and will be updated to reflect ongoing guidance from public health authorities and governments. There are multiple layers of protection that work together to safeguard those on our premises:

- **Being fully vaccinated (the most effective measure).**
- Hand washing with an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water for 20 seconds or more.
- Maintaining physical distance (at least 6 ft/2metres) between yourself and others.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Using protective equipment available such as face coverings when in publicly accessible spaces and where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.