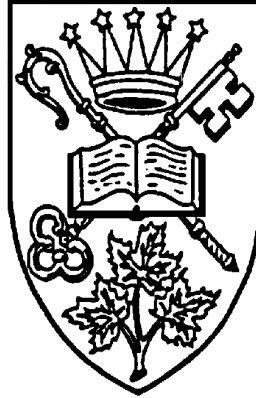


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Friday, June 25, 2021.

Dear Friends:

The Ontario government has announced that it is moving into the second step of its reopening plan on Wednesday, June 30. Therefore, in accordance with the “Roadmap to Reopening” for Algoma that was released in early June, our ‘Step 2’ comes into effect on Sunday, July 4.

As outlined in our diocesan plan (link provided below), guidelines laid out in Step 1 of our roadmap remain in effect, except now,

“Church buildings will be open to in-person worship services and other activities. The total number of people permitted to be present in the building at any one time will not exceed 15% of the building’s pre-pandemic capacity.”

We recognize provincial regulations allow for 25% of pre-pandemic capacity. However, we have determined to be more cautious as we reopen and see how things progress. Presuming all goes well, we will notify you when the decision is made to allow for greater numbers.

Please note that, as in provincial legislation, the change noted above means “the number of persons occupying any particular room in a building or structure while attending the gathering” must not exceed 15 per cent of the capacity of the room. Likewise, there must not be interaction between occupants of various rooms.

Masks and 2m of physical distance at all times continue to be required.

Please continue to make ample use of hand sanitizer and/or hand washing before and after the gathering as well as during worship if there is accidental contact.

An attendance logbook must be maintained with contact information for each attending person. Logbook sheets must be kept for 30 days following the occasion of each gathering.

Yard sales and similar events, and all non-essential activities remain prohibited.

It is highly recommended that online and outdoor options remain the primary mode of accomplishing church activities whenever possible.

As advised by our epidemiological consultant, we continue to exercise patience, reopening cautiously even though the provincial government permits us to move things along more quickly. This seems all the more prudent with the new, more contagious Delta variant on the rise in Ontario. At the same time, our protocols over the past year and few months have well protected our congregations and communities, including when our buildings have been open. We are confident if we continue to faithfully follow these protocols, we will be able to make the most of increasing opportunities to gather together once again.

Should you have any questions, please do be in touch with me either by phone or email. I will field those inquiries as quickly as possible during office hours.

I wish you every blessing as you begin the reopening process in your congregations.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Koyle', written in a cursive style.

The Ven. Dr. Jay Koyle,
Diocesan Archdeacon and Executive Officer

Link to the "Roadmap to Reopen the Diocese of Algoma:

<https://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Roadmap-to-Reopen-the-Diocese-of-Algoma-Steps-12.pdf>