

Covid Policy

At Lamont Alliance Church we recognize the strain that Covid has placed on people. Some are feeling stressed because of fear for health and loved ones. Some are frustrated because they believe things are not being handled properly by government authorities. Everyone is tired of the restrictions. We acknowledge all feelings are valid and judge no one on the basis of their approach to dealing with Covid.

We as a church work in submission to scripture recognizing that God has placed people in authority to help guide us. Therefore, we are required to work closely with our denominational leadership and work under the authority of the Provincial government's guidelines and recommendations. We realize this is a moment that the world is watching us, often with a critical eye. We desire to be a good witness to the world and to be good stewards of people's health (physically, emotionally, and spiritually). Therefore, we make the following policy.

1. All actions are done within an understanding that we are under the authority of denominational and provincial health guidelines regarding Covid.
2. Sunday Services will occur in person and online as appropriate under the guidelines. The online component is to allow people to avoid attending if ill, isolated, uneasy about crowds or to allow for social distancing.
 - A. If required by Alberta Health Services, we will move to a completely online model.
 - B. The nursery is closed, except under direct parent supervision, until Covid regulations allow it to open. All other things related to children's ministries come under the Church's Stage 2 Relaunch document which remains in effect.
 - C. Masks are highly encouraged prior to and after the service, while moving around the building, and anytime you cannot socially distance. Masks are not needed during the sermon unless you are not properly socially distanced. Church leaders will model this to the best of abilities.
 - D. The church will try to make masks available in the building at all times.
 - E. The church will make all efforts to allow for proper hand hygiene.
 - F. The church will keep track of attendance for the purpose of Covid contact tracing. If a Covid case were to occur in the building, all present at that time would be contacted for the purpose of encouraging a Covid test.
 - G. Worship leaders must wear masks, socially distanced from other song leaders they are not in a cohort with, and must use the same microphone during practice and service times.

H. During music times, the congregation is to remain seated and only join in singing when wearing a mask.

3. All other church ministries are mandated to follow provincial health guidelines regarding social distancing, masks, and food. Events that are unable to follow regulations should be suspended until regulations are loosened. It is noted that it is important that church life continue for the sake of spiritual and emotional well being. Therefore, creatively finding ways to hold events while adhering to regulations is encouraged.

4. If Lamont County is placed under "Watch Status" by Alberta Health, this policy will be adjusted to having no public singing in church, dismissing services in groups, and discouraging all visiting after church. Other church activities would be adjusted as required. If Lamont County is placed under "Enhanced Measures Status" the church will follow provincial guidelines.

5. Food and Drink will generally not be possible under stage 2 of the provincial relaunch. Where there is food or drink available, it must be served by an individual in a mask and following proper hand hygiene rules, consumed allowing for social distancing, and follow provincial protocols for numbers allowed (as of this writing, 50 indoors and 100 outdoors).

6. Groups who do not come under authority of Lamont Alliance Church, but use the building under a lease, rental agreement or informal agreement, all must agree to the policy. It is their job to keep track of those present for contact tracing, ensure social distancing and masks, and sanitize high touch surfaces in areas they used. According to provincial Covid relaunch documents, the church may be held liable and will certainly be held in poor regard in the community if there was an outbreak originating in the building, regardless if it started from a church event or community event.

7. The Board of Elders holds final say over the health and safety of the church. If there are questions regarding Covid safety, it should be brought to the Pastor and Elder's Board.

-September 25, 2020