

## Introduction

Hello Warmland Church! It's exciting to look forward to worshipping together again outdoors!

COVID-19 has significantly changed the way we interact. Although plans may evolve and change as time passes it is likely that things will look different for quite a while moving forward.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important that we have practices in place to guide our activities. By taking steps to prevent transmission we can serve our community and each other while meeting and encouraging each other in person.

## Background

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a coronavirus. COVID-19 can cause a range of symptoms from symptoms similar to a common cold to very severe respiratory problems along with other unpleasant things. The most common symptoms are:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Tiredness

Less common symptoms include:

- Aches and pains
- Sore throat
- Diarrhoea
- Headache
- Conjunctivitis (similar to pink eye)
- Loss of taste or smell and
- A rash on skin or discolouration of fingers or toes

In serious cases, symptoms may include difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, chest pain or pressure and loss of speech or movement. Symptoms usually start 5-6 days after infection but may take up to 14 days before occurring.

The coronavirus is passed through water droplets, which can be released by coughing and sneezing. The virus enters the body through the mouth, nose or eyes. The virus most commonly spreads through close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands, breathing in droplets containing the virus or touching something with the virus on it before touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

During this period of challenging circumstances, we are thankful to be able to meet again in person outdoors. Services will still be available as recordings on the website for those who are not comfortable attending at this time or cannot attend due to capacity issues. Alternating groups of people to attend services is planned to address capacity issues. If you are a visitor, we'll leave a few open spots in the back for you.

We pray the Lord brings both physical and spiritual healing soon!

## Steps to prevent transmission of the virus

Some basic steps, that have been in place since the start of the pandemic, are still in place and are likely here to stay for quite some time.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of Covid-19, such as cough, fever, runny nose, shortness of breath or sore throat, must not attend in-person church gatherings. Anyone who has travelled internationally in the last 14 days must not attend in person church gatherings. A self-assessment tool has been developed to assess your symptoms. It can be accessed at: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>

Persons with increased risk of severe complications from COVID-19 and those sharing a 'bubble' with persons at increased risk are encouraged to continue viewing uploaded sermons on our website.

Physical distancing of 2 meters must be maintained between people unless they are in the same family or bubble. Physical distancing includes refraining from close contact, such as shaking hands and hugging. A maximum of 50 persons has been set for outdoor gatherings. Seating in family groups with 2 metres apart from others.

Face masks must be worn as a way to prevent yourself from spreading droplets.

The church building must be cleaned between church gatherings. Ensure frequently touched surfaces are cleaned well. Frequently touch surfaces include light switches, faucets, toilet handles and door handles.

Hand sanitizer will be available at the front entrance and near the entrance to the washrooms.

Personal hygiene is important to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The following steps can be taken to maintain proper hygiene:

- Wash your hands immediately before or after entering the church building with soap and hot water or hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will be available near the front entrance to the building. Wash your hands often, especially after using the washroom or touching frequently touched surfaces.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- If you use a tissue, dispose of the tissue as soon as possible into a lined garbage can and immediately wash or sanitize your hands.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Do not share eating, drinking or serving utensils.
- Avoid touching frequently touch surfaces. If you don't need to touch it, avoid touching it!

## Preparing for the service

Attendance will be planned in advance with consideration of physical distancing and to leave space for potential visitors. To attend an in-person outdoor service, those interested should RSVP at <https://rsvp.church/r/rLT800IT> to reserve a spot. A confirmation email will be sent to your email. If you are unable to attend, please review this email and cancel your RSVP.

Warmland will ensure there is enough soap, hand sanitizer and paper towel for hand washing purposes. Tent flaps will be open for air circulation.

Set up for the church service should be done by a minimal amount of people per service. Persons setting up should ensure they maintain good hygiene. Only one person per week should set up the sound system. Only one person should turn on and off lights. Microphones should not be shared by speakers.

People are asked to bring their own chairs and sit in groups of family members, couples, individuals, or others who are within the same bubble. Groups will be at least 2 meters apart.

Printed programs will not be distributed at this time.

### **Entering the Tent**

If there is an on-site exposure to the coronavirus, all persons present at the time of exposure need to be notified. A list of attendees of each service will be maintained for 2 weeks. If visitors attend, request contact information, and explain that the information will only be kept for 2 weeks and only shared with the appropriate health authority for the purpose of potential contact tracing. Providing information is voluntary.

**People must not gather or socially engage before, during and after the service.** Refreshments, such as coffee and water, will not be served at Warmland. People can bring their own refreshments. All people should enter through the front door. Hands should be cleaned with hand sanitizer or soap and hot water immediately before or after entering the tent. If people need to leave the tent before the service, please exit through the side door and enter again through the front door. Avoid going in and out of the tent before the service. Ensure your hands are clean prior to re-entering the building.

A collection bag will not be passed around during the service. If you have questions about alternate methods of giving, please talk to Dolores Home. Electronic methods of giving available are e-transfer at [giving@warmland.org](mailto:giving@warmland.org), scheduled automatic debit transfers and giving online at Warmland's website through Canada Helps. Please use the donation box when giving cheques or cash.

Children's programs fall under *Youth Extra Curricular Activities* section of the [BC COVID restrictions](#) they can meet in the Warmland building at this time.

To decrease the distance water droplets can be emitted, avoid coughing, sneezing, shouting, singing or laughing loudly.

If you need to use the washroom, ensure your hands are clean before and after using the washrooms. Only one person should be in each room in the bathrooms at a time. Give others space when entering and leaving the washroom. The kitchen should only be used for hand washing.

### **Leaving the tent**

**People must not gather or socially engage before, during and after the service.** Avoid coming back inside after going outside.