

Carlisle Kilbride Congregation Building COVID-19 Safety Plan

Background

In 2020 the Joint Carlisle/Kilbride Church Board asked the Logistics Committee to prepare a Covid-19 Safety Plan to provide rules and guidelines for the re-opening of our church buildings.

The following Safety Plan was updated in March 2022 by the Logistics Committee and approved by the Joint Board on March 8, 2022. The policy will continue to be reviewed periodically and revisions made as needed.

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Covid Safety Plan

Policies have been developed for three categories of building use:

1. Carlisle and Kilbride Church Worship, Meetings, and Church Sponsored Events
2. Carlisle and Kilbride Renters and Building Users
3. Carlisle and Kilbride Church Staff

1. Carlisle/Kilbride United Church Worship, Meetings, and Church Sponsored Events

1.1 Protections and Covid Awareness

Double vaccination proof will be required with the exception of persons with a medical exemption. Face coverings are required in all areas of the building. Hand sanitizer and masks (for those who do not have one) will be provided at the building entrances. Self-monitoring Covid health signage will be placed at entrances and throughout the building. Food and beverages are not to be consumed in the building with the exception of adapted communion elements and meals consumed by staff. Individuals may bring and use a closeable water bottle. Prepared meals (3rd party) can be distributed for outside or offsite consumption.

1.2 Physical Distancing

Physical distancing is an important element in minimizing exposure. Where appropriate consideration should be given to holding events outdoors or in spaces where windows and doors can be opened. Listed below are the minimum methods to keep individuals at a distance.

- Arrows will be provided to identify your route within the building.
- Physical guides (e.g. tape on floors, walkways, walls, restricted pews) marking 6 feet will be placed throughout the building to assist with physical distancing.
- Attendees will be asked to refrain from socializing or congregating inside the building before and after events.

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- Worship:
 - A single point of entry to the place of worship and a separate point of exit will be established.
 - An usher will guide you to your seat and direct your exit when the service is complete. Congregants will be seated front to back to minimize physical contact.
 - The offering plate will be placed at the entrance or exit of the building.
 - Cohort individuals and families within the same household may sit together with the requirement to remain 6 feet from other individuals.

1.3 Cleaning and Disinfecting

Room users should clean the room after use. Surfaces most likely to become contaminated include, doorknobs, railings, elevator buttons, light switches, toilet and faucet handles, electronic devices and tabletops.

- Only use cleaning and disinfectant products that have a Drug Identification Number (DIN).
- Hand sanitizers, wipes and single use gloves will be available for anyone in the building to use.
- Good handwashing technique posters will be displayed in the building.
- Ontario Health Cleaning and Disinfecting Links:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/factsheet-covid-19-hand-hygiene.pdf?la=en>

1.4 Best Practices

The following practices are to be used to minimize risk of infection spread.

- All individuals must wear a face covering.
- Food and beverages are not allowed to be consumed in the building. Individuals may bring and use a closed water bottle.

1.5 Drive-In Services and Events

Drive-in services and events provide an opportunity for congregants to attend in person while at a distanced from others. The following rules will apply to drive-in gatherings.

- During drive-in events attendees should remain in their cars for safety. Physical distance of 6 feet should be maintained for anyone outside their vehicle.
- Service material should be provided on a best effort bases for those unable to attend the in-person event.

2. Carlisle and Kilbride Renters and Building Users

Renters and building users must have policies in place to meet or exceed government and local health regulations. Where an organization has an insurance policy, we ask them to add on their policy “*Kilbride United Church*” or “*Carlisle United Church*” as *Additional Insured*. Private individuals will be directed to consult their home insurance policy for liability.

For further information and assistance, a suggested template has been developed and is attached.

3. Carlisle and Kilbride Staff

Staff must follow all best practices as outlined throughout Section 1 of this document.

PPE, hand sanitizer, and cleaning/sanitizing supplies must be made available to staff.

All staff are strongly encouraged to take part in the Red Cross “Stay Safe at Work” program implemented in January of 2022 with weekly COVID rapid testing and reporting. In the event of a positive test, staff are to inform M&P and follow all provincial and municipal guidelines with respect to self-isolation for themselves and their families. Return to work inside the building/s should be preceded by a negative COVID rapid test.

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Developed by: Re-opening Committee

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Others consulted: Horseshoe Falls Regional Council, Municipal (Burlington/Hamilton), Provincial and Federal Agencies.