



PANDEMIC RECOVERY & IN-PERSON MINISTRY (RE) LAUNCH GUIDELINES FOR THE PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

DOCUMENT UPDATE: 2 JULY 2020

Dear Communities of Faith and Ministry Leadership,

As the information from the BC Ministry of Health and WorksafeBC continue to evolve regarding guidelines and best practices during COVID-19, the PMRC leadership will provide updates.

These updates will be a separate document (this, that you are reading now), and should be used in conjunction with:

- the document titled "June 2020 Version 3 (V3) Pacific Mountain Regional Council Pandemic Recovery & In-Person Ministry (Re) Launch Guidelines found on the PMRC website: <https://pacificmountain.ca/expectations-discernment-and-guidelines-from-the-pmrc-executive-minister-in-reopening-united-church-communities-of-faith-buildings-and-ministries/>
- information found on The United Church of Canada website: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/reopening-churches-during-covid-19>

For the most up to date Information please refer to WorksafeBC and your local Health Authority.

Blessings,
Treena Duncan, Executive Minister

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BE KIND, BE CALM, BE SAFE.

DR BONNIE HENRY



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1. APPENDIX TO STEP 2: MAKE A PLAN

Given the inherently social nature of Community of Faith events, the prolonged exposure to participants attending events, the demographics of our communities of faith as higher risk, and the safety protocols required to ensure reduced risk, **the PMRC recommends that Communities of Faith remain at Stage 1 at this time.**

Stage 1 - WORSHIP IS STILL ONLINE ONLY, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP OR SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS. See June 2020 Version 3 (V3) Pacific Mountain Regional Council Pandemic Recovery & In-Person Ministry (Re) Launch Guidelines for details of Stage 1.

In-person worship could resume in church buildings where space allows social distancing, adhering to public health directives and allowable numbers.

In order to ensure compliance with the BC Workers Compensation Act as well as the orders and recommendations from the BC Ministry of Health, all communities of faith who are opening their building to staff, small groups, outreach or worship (or any other form of church operations) or who are holding outdoor gatherings must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.

Before re-opening, the safety plan must be posted at the church or event as well as on your website if you have one.



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APPENDIX TO STEP 2: MAKE A PLAN CONTINUED

Communities of Faith can find information and assistance on developing a safety plan on the WorkSafeBC website:

- <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation>.

In addition to the guide, WorkSafe BC also has a template that outlines the policies, guidelines, and procedures they have put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and that can be used for developing a safety plan:

- <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/checklist/covid-19-safety-plan?lang=en>.

Your Plan Must Include:

- Building occupancy and social distancing protocols,
- Maintenance, cleaning and safety protocols
- Protective measures and supplies to reduce transmission risk (i.e. masks, barriers, hand-washing stations etc)
- Clear policy, practices and signage to ensure that individuals who are ill do not enter the premises
- A training plan to ensure everyone is trained in the policies and procedures and an outline of how you will communicate your reopening protocols and practices to your community of faith, and tenants or renters.

It is the responsibility of the governing body to ensure a plan for maintaining all public health orders is in place.

Please forward a copy of your plan to your regional minister for consultation before implementing.

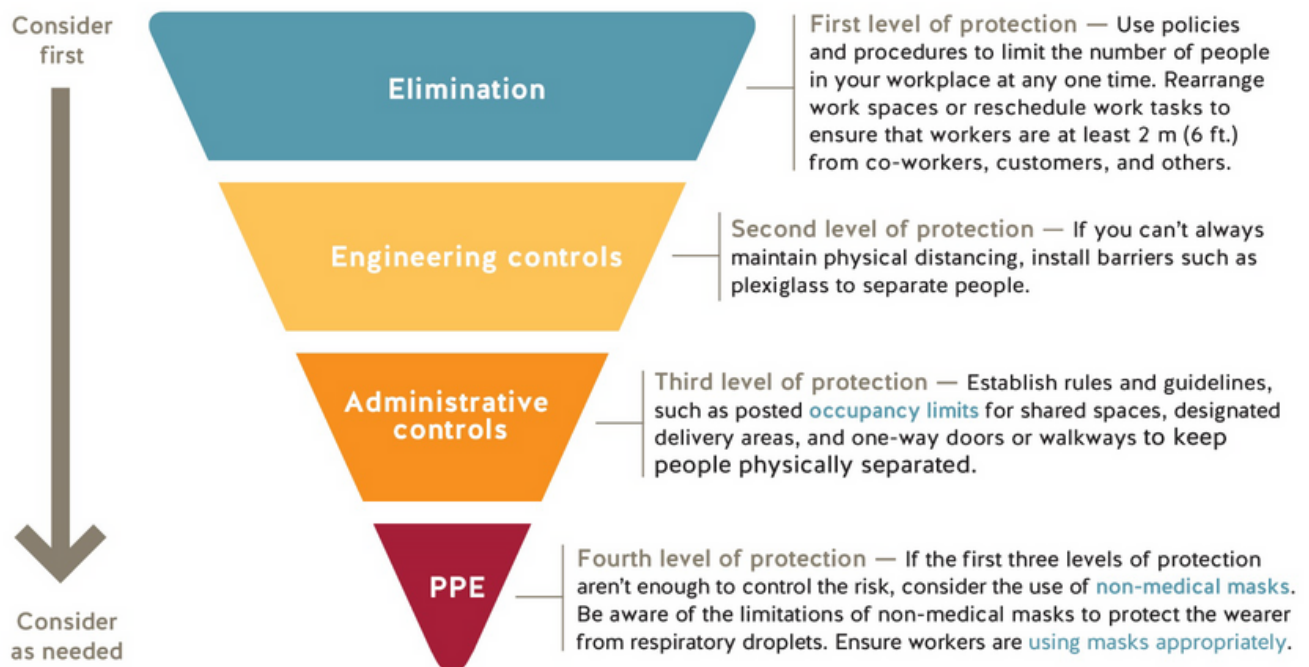


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2. THE HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS (ELIMINATION, ENGINEERING CONTROLS, ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS, AND FINALLY PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT)

Wherever possible, congregations should use the protocol that offers the highest level of protection and can consider controls from additional levels if the first level isn't practicable or does not completely control the risk. They may need to incorporate controls from various levels to address the risk.





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3. POSTERS AND SIGNAGE

WorksafeBC also has poster and signage templates:

- Occupancy limit poster: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/posters/help-prevent-spread-covid-19-occupancy-limit?lang=en>
- Handwashing signage: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/posters/help-prevent-spread-covid-19-handwashing?lang=en>
- For visitors: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/posters/help-prevent-spread-covid-19-entry-check-visitors?lang=en>

4. FOR MORE INFORMATION

The information in this document is based on current recommendations and may change. For the latest guidance, please see the health information from:

- the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control:
<http://www.bccdc.ca/healthinfo/diseases-conditions/covid-19>
- WorkSafeBC: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en>
- and the latest news from the government of British Columbia.

Communities of Faith with questions or concerns about COVID-19 safety protocols can call WorkSafeBC's Prevention Information Line at 604-276-3100 in the Lower Mainland or 1-888-621-SAFE within BC. You'll be able to speak to a prevention officer to get answers to your questions, and if required, a prevention officer will be assigned to assess the health and safety risk at your workplace.

You can also contact your local Health Authority for additional information and answers to questions regarding your COVID-19 safety protocols for opening.

For support and examples of Thrift Store Safety Plans please contact your regional minister.