

November 23, 2021

Dear Faith-Community Leaders:

Faith-based leaders and organizations continue to play a critical role in guiding their communities during the pandemic. Many in your communities are turning to their faith for support during this difficult time. The Province of Ontario including the County of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka continue to experience the impacts of the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize a collective effort is required to further protect our communities and require your assistance. To limit COVID-19 transmission and outbreaks, I am providing a revised [Letter of Instruction](#) on November 23, 2021 to persons responsible for a business or organization (including faith-based leaders and organizations).

The Letter of Instruction [linked here](#) replaces the previous one issued on September 1, 2021 and is in addition to the requirements found in the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* and associated Regulations. It is important to know that breaches of some of these directions will constitute offences under provincial regulations or other public health legal requirements.

Effective November 26, 2021, faith-based organizations and leaders (along with other businesses and organizations) must implement additional measures as prescribed in this Letter of Instruction. These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Drafting a safety plan and posting it in a conspicuous location.
- Conducting active screening for workers and members of the public (as defined in the Letter of Instruction).
- Recording the name and contact information (full name, telephone number and/or email address) of every person who enters any area of the establishment where religious services, rites or ceremonies take place and must maintain the record for a period of at least 30 days
- Ensuring that any person in the indoor area of the organization/place of worship, or in a vehicle that is operating as part of the faith-based organization, wears a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin during any period when they are in the indoor area of the premises unless exempt under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act Ontario Regulation 364/20*. Exemptions to the use of masks or face coverings under Ontario Regulation 364/20 include, but are limited to children younger than two years of age, for those with medical conditions that inhibits their ability to wear a mask or face covering or are unable to put on or remove their mask or face covering without the assistance of another person, to consume food or drink, as may be necessary for the purposes of health and safety and temporarily removing a mask or face covering when publicly speaking or for receiving rites of service.
- Ensuring signs are posted in a conspicuous location visible to the public that states the capacity limits under which the establishment is permitted to operate.
- Continuing to implement other public health measures including physical distancing of 2 metres, cleaning and disinfection in accordance with the Reopening Ontario Act, [O. Reg., 364/20](#).

❑ **Barrie:**  
15 Sperling Drive  
Barrie, ON  
L4M 6K9  
705-721-7520  
FAX: 705-721-1495

❑ **Collingwood:**  
280 Pretty River Pkwy.  
Collingwood, ON  
L9Y 4J5  
705-445-0804  
FAX: 705-445-6498

❑ **Cookstown:**  
2-25 King Street S.  
Cookstown, ON  
L0L 1L0  
705-458-1103  
FAX: 705-458-0105

❑ **Gravenhurst:**  
2-5 Pineridge Gate  
Gravenhurst, ON  
P1P 1Z3  
705-684-9090  
FAX: 705-684-9887

❑ **Huntsville:**  
34 Chaffey St.  
Huntsville, ON  
P1H 1K1  
705-789-8813  
FAX: 705-789-7245

❑ **Midland:**  
A-925 Hugel Ave.  
Midland, ON  
L4R 1X8  
705-526-9324  
FAX: 705-526-1513

❑ **Orillia:**  
120-169 Front St. S.  
Orillia, ON  
L3V 4S8  
705-325-9565  
FAX: 705-325-2091

We require your leadership and support as we continue to stop the spread of COVID-19 across the province and here at home in the County of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka.

If you have any questions, please contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL Signed By:**

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

CG:SR:sh