

Leamington United Mennonite Church Re-opening Strategy – Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) – July 21, 2020

Note – this document represents a point in time regarding the current local situation and will be subject to changes when guidelines and recommendations are either changed, added or removed based on direction from the appropriate authorities.

Leamington United Mennonite Church (LUMC), in response to re-opening guidelines from the Province of Ontario and local Windsor Essex County Health Unit has prepared the guidelines below for the re-opening of our Church. This strategy will be updated as additional information from the guiding authorities is updated and/or changed as the province and country continue to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. The following strategy applies to all uses of the LUMC Sanctuary and building including Worship Services, Weddings and Funerals.

- 1) Entry/Exit to the Sanctuary and main building will be limited to the Front Entrance doors only. Separate Entry/Exit to the Education Wing will be the East End door to reduce exposure to the main sanctuary and building.
- 2) A Log and/or registration list will be kept prior to and/or at the time of service of all persons attending the building, including Name and contact information.
- 3) Signage with screening questions and guidelines will be posted at all Entry/Exit locations with necessary questions pertaining to health and travel.
- 4) Hand sanitizer will be available at each Entry/Exit location and its use will be mandatory for each person entering the facility.
- 5) The use of a face covering will be mandatory by all persons entering the building, subject to the guidelines of the health unit. The following exemptions per the Windsor Essex County Health Unit will be recognized.
 - a. The person is a child under the age of two years, or a child under the age of 5 years either chronologically or developmentally and he or she refuses to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver.
 - b. Wearing a Face Covering would inhibit the Person's ability to breathe in any way.
 - c. For any other medical reason, the Person Cannot safely wear a face covering such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information
 - d. For any religious reason, the person cannot wear a face covering, or cannot do a face covering in a manner that would properly control source.

(class order made pursuant to Section 22 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, RSO 1990 c.H.7 – June 26, 2020 Windsor Essex County Health Unit)

LUMC strongly encourages its members and guests to wear a face covering for the protection of others and themselves. Should there be members or guests with medical reasons and/or elevated risk with their attendance (ie. travel/health symptoms, suspected exposure to Covid-19, ability to breathe with a mask etc) or these guidelines are not safely able to be followed, we encourage that they do not attend our services.

- 6) Once inside the building, physical distancing practices will be followed including 2M distancing. Seating will follow physical distance guidelines. Attendance in the building will be limited, per Province of Ontario guidelines, to a maximum of 30% of capacity. LUMC reserves the right to adjust attendance due to resource availability and risk assessment as necessary. Attendees will be ushered to/from their seating before and after the service.

Members and guests are strongly encouraged to abide by physical distancing guidelines outside of the building both before and after the service. We ask that visiting/gathering be avoided with time in the parking lot limited to ingress/egress from the building.

- 7) Bulletins will not be handed out, and high contact items including all materials in the pews will be removed
- 8) All areas of the Sanctuary and Building will be cleaned and sanitized after the service with a waiting period of a minimum of 72 hours between services. Exceptions will be considered pursuant to funerals or other necessary services acknowledging that additional cleaning and sanitizing may be required prior to the service.

The following items will remain unavailable at this time:

- 1) Coffee time/socializing
- 2) Nursery
- 3) Balcony seating
- 4) Offering plate distribution
- 5) Bulletin hand outs
- 6) Fellowship meals – funerals/pot luck etc
- 7) Funeral visitations
- 8) Outside non-member rentals

Sunday School

Sunday School is currently not in session. Resumption of Sunday School is currently anticipated in September/October. Physical distancing and capacity guidelines as outlined above will be adhered to in the Education Wing. LUMC will provide further details on the re-opening of Sunday School when additional information and guidelines have been reviewed. For this LUMC will review Ministry of Education protocols as a guide to assist in establishing LUMC protocols for the re-opening of our Sunday School.

Communion

How LUMC will participate in Communion is still being discussed by Spiritual Council and Church Council. This is an important item in our faith and we wish to make it meaningful, but also safe within the current situation. We will provide more information at a later date, we are considering some type of Communion Service in October, perhaps during our Thanksgiving service. We appreciate your patience as we discern how to provide Communion in a meaningful way.