

Covid-19 Protocols at First United
May 2022

During the pandemic, the Church Council and Covid-19 taskgroup has upheld the safety and well-being of our Community of Faith. Throughout, we have monitored and complied with evolving public health recommendations and regulations, often choosing to implement practices beyond the minimum.

We also recognize that negotiating pandemic life is complex for both individuals and communities especially given changes in Covid-19 variants, variance in choices over risk-tolerance, choices made in response to individual physical and mental health, and vaccination rates.

In keeping with Ontario public health guidelines, we are offering a hybrid Sunday service that welcomes both in-person attendance and zoom attendance. For those attending in-person for Sunday gatherings and/or mid-week gatherings, we are observing the following protocols:

- a) Self-screening prior to arriving at the church. You are asked to choose zoom or video participation from home if you are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms, or have had recent close exposure to someone who tested positive for Covid-19;
- b) Requirement to wear a mask when indoors;
- c) Respect for physical distancing, as able;
- d) Maximize ventilation within all our gathering spaces;
- e) Currently there is no capacity limit, no requirement to register, and no need to show proof of vaccination;

Given that there are still considerable risks associated with Covid-19, we will continue zoom access for Sunday services, children's programming on Sundays, and committee meetings. Many of our small groups will be determining in the coming weeks and months whether they will remain on-line, be in-person, or offer hybrid options.

Children and youth who attend in-person on Sunday will gather with their leaders, or sit with their family throughout the service.

At this juncture, we will not offer refreshments and conversation following the service, though participants are welcome to visit with one another in the courtyard.