

ST. ANDREW'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX SOBOR PARISH

9831 - 75 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
CANADA T6A 2Y8



Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки!

Glory To Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Summary of Modifications to the Parish "Reopening Plan"

The following two sections are copied from the letter dated July 16, 2021 to the parish members from the parish's Board of Management President and identify a summary of how the parish **Reopening Plan** is currently modified. The complete **Reopening Plan** will be re-established on the website once finalized later this summer in time for September 2021.

It is encouraged that you respond to the Board president regarding your feelings toward relaxation of pandemic restrictions as requested in the second section of this summary.

St. Andrew's response to the AB Government's relaxing of pandemic restrictions

The AB Government announced that Stage 3 of "Alberta's Open for Summer Plan" came into effect on July 1, and most of the restrictions required of places of worship have been relaxed. Consequently, we have modified the re-opening plan as follows:

1. Screening of attendees is no longer completed as worshippers come into the facility.
2. Masking is not required.
3. Remove directional travel into and out of the church.
4. Pews are in their usual positions and all pews can be used.
5. Allow as many worshippers into the church as want to attend.
6. Singing is acceptable.
7. Kissing and touching of icons is allowed.
8. Holding of the wooden candles during reading of gospel and memorials is practiced.
9. Allow use of the memorial candle stands by worshippers with memorial candles available in the vestibule.
10. Final veneration and kissing of the handheld cross at the dismissal is practiced
11. Open all areas of the facility.
12. Re-establish greeters for Divine Liturgies.
13. The facility is no longer sanitized prior to its use.

Antidoron will continue to be prepared and distributed as if the pandemic restrictions remain because it is for ALL worshippers, and some may feel uncomfortable receiving it otherwise.

At this time, we are leaving the tape lines on the floor in the church in case we need to revert back to directional travel. For the summer months, we will leave the donation box in the vestibule – the collection of donations with passed baskets will not be practiced.

If you feel the need to continue to practice the restrictions that were in place prior to July 1, please follow them – wear a mask and maintain a two-metre space between you and others not in your cohort. Do not do anything that makes you feel that your safety is being compromised.

Regardless of the above changes, we ask that if you are feeling sick, have any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or are fully or partially vaccinated and have come in contact with a COVID-19 case (or a variant), that you do not attend worship services. You must follow the AB Government's isolation and quarantining protocols.

PLEASE TELL US – are you comfortable with relaxed restrictions in church or should some remain?

Attending and worshipping in our church should be welcoming and comfortable for all members. However, not everyone who attends our church is the same when it comes to their approach to COVID-19.

- Some may like and welcome the relaxed restrictions
- Some may feel that the relaxed restrictions are occurring too quickly and they are still required
- Some may have a compromised immune system; therefore, they need to be more careful and choose to follow masking and spacing restrictions
- Some may have children under the age of 12 who cannot receive the vaccinations and do not want to risk placing their children in an unrestricted environment
- Some may be worried about the delta variant because it is reported to be more transmissible than the original COVID-19 virus
- Some may have only received one vaccination
- Some may not be vaccinated whatsoever because they believe that vaccinations are not helpful

Things that I think most people believe to be true about COVID-19 and its variants:

1. COVID-19 and its variants are still in our communities.
2. Some may get COVID-19 or a variant and not exhibit symptoms – they do not know they are sick.
3. Those that have received two vaccinations may still get COVID-19 or a variant and can still spread it to others.
4. Even though unlikely, those that have received two vaccinations may still get COVID-19 or a variant and may end up sick or in the hospital.
5. Children under the age of 12 are less likely to get or suffer from COVID-19 or its variants but still may be so afflicted.

The Board of Management does not want to impose their thoughts on the worshippers without hearing your opinions. **We want to know if you are fine without any restrictions, or if you want to have the parish maintain some or all of the pandemic related restrictions.** Please email me directly at president@uocc-standrew.ca with your thoughts on this matter especially if you have children under the age of 12. In time for September and the start of the new church cycle, we will try and accommodate all members and provide a place of worship where all who want, can attend safely and comfortably.