

**ST. ANDREW'S
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX SOBOR PARISH**

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COVID-19 Pandemic Re-opening Plan of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish
Updated October 28, 2021

Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки!

Glory Be to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Dear Parish Honorary Members, Members, Associate Members, and Friends,

The purpose of this communication is to provide an update on the COVID-19 Pandemic Reopening Plan for Worship Services at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish. This Reopening Plan developed by the Board of Management is based on the documentation listed below issued by the Government of Alberta.

With the Blessing of His Grace, Bishop Ilarion, Sunday Divine Liturgy and other services at the Parish were re-launched beginning July 19, 2020 following the closure of all UOCC parishes nationally.

All of us have a responsibility in preventing and reducing the spread of Covid-19.

The Parish Board of Management has the following responsibilities:

- ❖ Monitoring and ensuring adherence to the Reopening Plan.
- ❖ Assuring worshippers that the procedures and practices that have been implemented for worship services are in the best interests of their health.
- ❖ Strongly encouraging worshippers to be vaccinated with accepted Covid-19 vaccinations.
- ❖ Be welcoming to all worshippers who wish to worship respectfully within our Parish – whether vaccinated or not and as long as they do not cause harm to others.

Worshippers and other users are responsible to:

- ❖ Know that they attend church and worship at their own risk.
- ❖ Be aware that asymptomatic worshippers with Covid-19 may be present in church.
- ❖ Be aware that worshippers in church could be either partially or fully vaccinated or not vaccinated.
- ❖ Please stay at home if you:
 - Have been diagnosed with Covid-19, live with someone with Covid-19, or have been in close contact with someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days.
 - Are waiting for the results of a Covid-19 test.
 - Are experiencing a cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, flu-like symptoms, or have underlying or compromised medical conditions.
 - Have travelled outside Canada in the past 14 days.
- ❖ Reserve a spot in advance of the worship service you wish to attend (details below).
- ❖ Move to maintain the physical distance limitations between yourself and all other cohorts.

- ❖ Not place yourself in compromising situations.
- ❖ Become familiar with this Reopening Plan.
- ❖ Report to the Parish President (contact information at the end of this communication) if you become sick with Covid-19 within 10 days of attending a worship service. Your identity will be kept confidential.

The re–launching of worship services and facility use does not mean a return to how we previously attended church and how we celebrated the Divine Liturgy. Things are different. Procedures and practices vary from parish to parish depending upon each parish’s plan for reopening. Our Parish’s Reopening Plan is presented below.

Sections A to I provide information and list directives for worshippers who want to attend a worship service at our Parish.

A. Reference Documents

1. Alberta Government CMOH Record of Decision 44-2021
2. Alberta Government CMOH Record of Decision 45-2021
3. Others as referenced in the aforementioned

B. Limitations

4. In accordance with the Alberta Government CMOH Record of Decision 45-2021, places of worship cannot subscribe to the Restrictions Exemption Program. Therefore, worshippers may be unvaccinated, or may be vaccinated with one or more Covid-19 vaccinations.
5. Please stay at home if you:
 - a. Have been diagnosed with Covid-19, live with someone with Covid-19, or have been in close contact with someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days.
 - b. Are waiting for the results of a Covid-19 test.
 - c. Are experiencing a cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, flu-like symptoms, or have underlying or compromised medical conditions.
 - d. Have travelled outside Canada in the past 14 days.
6. Maximum number of worshippers including priest(s), deacon(s), palamari, cantor(s), and laity is limited in accordance with the restrictions issued by Alberta Health Services.
7. The practical limit of laity worshippers is approximately 40, but it depends on the number of individuals in each cohort and the number of cohorts that attend (if there are more individuals per cohort, then more total worshippers can be seated while maintaining physical distancing).
8. The theoretical limit of the number of all worshippers – laity and clergy within the church is 70.
9. Masks are to be worn at all times.
10. A 2m physical distancing between others in church of a different cohort is to be maintained in accordance with the Alberta Government CMOH Record of Decision 44-2021.
11. Spacing in between cohorts is self-patrolled. In this regard, only every second pew is used for seating to promote the physical distancing.
12. To manage fairness, equal access, and ensuring adherence to provincial guidelines, if maximum attendance has been reached, all will take turns attending – those who wish to attend but cannot, will be given first choice of attending the next service.
13. If you have not reserved a spot to worship and you come to a service prior to maximum attendance being reached, you will be allowed to enter because attendance limitations

have not yet been exceeded. However, if you are already in church and a worshipper who reserved a spot comes to worship after you, depending on attendance, you may be asked to give up your seat for the worshipper who reserved a spot. And, you will be given first choice of attending the next service.

14. There may be limitations to the celebration of baptisms – contact Fr. Yuriy Suchevan (mobile 780-885-8143 or email Parishpriest@uocc-standrew.ca) for more information.

C. Planning on Attending Worship Services?

15. If you are prepared to follow the procedures within this document and attend a worship service, then you:
 - a. Will be attending at your own risk.
 - b. Will contact Ernest Skakun by email at bluemalva@shaw.ca or by telephone at 780-434-0543 no later than THURSDAY prior to Sunday that you want to attend, indicating how many from your household will be attending the service and their names. Your phone number or email address is also required.
 - c. Need to bring the following:
 - i. Mask.
 - ii. Filled water bottle since the water fountain is shut off and getting water from other water taps is discouraged.
 - iii. Your own Prayer book since all prayer books and other materials have been removed from the pews.
 - iv. Anything else that you need to reduce your risk to coming in contact with the Covid-19 virus.

D. Procedures upon Arrival

16. Upon arriving at the doors leading to the Atrium, you will be greeted.
17. The greeter will ask you to wear a mask if you are not doing so. The mask must cover your mouth and nose and must be worn at all times while you are on Church Property.
18. You may sanitize your hands with the sanitizing solution provided. However, we ask you to bring some with you to avoid causing the parish added expense.
19. You will no longer have to answer any pandemic survey questions or provide your name for contact tracing purposes.
20. An usher may explain to worshippers the protocol in this document and may suggest seating for your cohort.
21. You may have to wait in the vestibule before being approached by the usher.
22. Until such time that there is church school, you will be asked to have your children be seated with you. You are responsible for looking after your children.
23. You must maintain physical distancing at all times while on Church Property and especially throughout the entire Divine Liturgy and while inside facility buildings.
24. Parish management does not track who attends services. However, we do track numbers of worshippers to assist in future COVID-19 risk management.

E. During the Divine Liturgy or Other Worship Services

25. Holy Confession sacrament is practiced – contact Fr. Yuriy Suchevan (mobile 780-885-8143 or email Parishpriest@uocc-standrew.ca) in advance to arrange for this sacrament.
26. Holy Communion sacrament is practiced with a special procedure taking into consideration Covid-19. A common spoon is not used during this procedure.
27. Worshippers are permitted to light candles for health and for those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. The candles are available for a suggested donation at the rear of the

church. Be aware that an individual with unsanitized hands or one who may have Covid-19 without symptoms may have touched the candles in the box prior to you. Hand sanitizer by the candle box is available in this regard.

28. To minimize the potential transference of Covid-19 amongst members of different cohorts, long handled wooden candles are not used. And no candles whatsoever are held during the reading of the gospel, during memorial litia, or during the Great Entrance.
29. Altar Servers are limited to the children of Fr. Yuriy at this time to ensure physical distancing between cohorts is maintained.
30. Even though there are no restrictions on congregational singing, it is strongly discouraged. Worshippers are strongly encouraged to hum the tune of say the words of responses. Of course, worshippers are allowed to say aloud the Symbol of Faith (Creed), the Lord's Prayer, the Prayer Before Holy Communion, and any responses. The singing of Mnohaia Lita and Vichnaya Pamyat is limited to the priest and the cantor. Worshippers can hum the tune.
31. Antidoron prepared in a sanitized fashion will be similarly distributed to worshippers as they exit the nave.
32. Veneration of icons, crosses, and relics with a deep and reverent bow and at a distance of at least 2 metres is strongly encouraged.
33. The decision to actually physical touch (kissing or with hand or forehead) of icons, crosses, or relics rests with each individual. It is not required, and it is strongly discouraged even while donning a mask. Be aware that an individual with unsanitized hands or one who may have Covid-19 without showing symptoms may have touched these items prior to you.
34. Fellowship after Divine Liturgy is temporarily not occurring until social gatherings are allowed in a place of worship.

F. Memorial Service immediately Following a Divine Liturgy

35. For a Memorial Service immediately following a Divine Liturgy:
 - a. Individual wax candles will be distributed in a sanitized fashion by the palamar for those attending a memorial service directly following a Divine Liturgy.
 - b. At the discretion of the palamar, family members **ONLY** may leave their pews and hold their memorial candles at the front of the nave. All other worshippers must stay in their pews used for the Divine Liturgy in order to maintain physical spacing.
 - c. At the conclusion of the memorial service, worshippers upon venerating or bowing before the cross and as they begin moving to the exit door, can take their candles home or place their candles in the stands commemorating those who have deceased.
 - d. A memorial luncheon may be allowed after the conclusion of the service in the Cultural Building Hall **only for those individuals who provide proof of vaccination or can prove a negative Covid-19 test result, and provide government issued identification in accordance with Alberta Government CMOH Record of Decision 45-2021.**
 - e. However, it can be a complicated affair as all attenders of the luncheon will be checked for the aforementioned proof.
 - f. Please contact Michael Zukiwsky for more details and pre-arrangement – contact information available below.

G. Facilities and Sanitization

36. In general, the entire facility is open for use.

37. The facility office continues to be unattended and the entire facility locked during non-service occasions, but is checked regularly.
38. Sanitation of the facility against Covid-19 is not completed. However, hand sanitizer is placed in strategic locations of the facility primarily for use during worship services.
39. Water fountains will be shut off.
40. The church and Tillie Kurysh Hall are in the same building and is considered separate from the Cultural Building. The “church” building follows CMOH Record of Decision 44-2021 where the Restrictions Exemption Program cannot be practiced. For other than worship services, it is not open to the members for use or to the public for rent.
41. The Cultural Building classrooms and basement and the kitchen are in the same building and is considered separate from the “church” building. The Cultural Building follows CMOH Record of Decision 45-2021. In general, it can be used by members or rented to the public as the Board of Management has decided to follow the Restrictions Exemption Program.

H. Routing and Movement

42. Walking into, within, and exiting from the parish facility is no longer controlled but is as it was prior to the pandemic. However, following Divine Liturgy service, exiting the nave of the church tends to be through the northeast door following veneration of the cross.

I. Behaviour

43. Even though there are no published restrictions regarding this topic, lingering and visiting each other within the facility are not encouraged so as to minimize the opportunity to transgress the physical distancing requirement.
44. Further, handshaking, hugging, and other forms of physical contact is completely discouraged.

Sections J and K provide information on worship services other than the Divine Liturgy.

J. Feast Day Worship Services

45. Church Services on Feast Days which fall on days other than Sunday will be celebrated. Refer to the church calendar on the webpage which identifies those celebrated Feast Days. Fr. Yuriy usually announces those Feast Days on a Sunday Divine Liturgy service.

K. Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

46. Contact Fr. Yuriy Sucheivan (mobile 780-885-8143 or email Parishpriest@uocc-standrew.ca) when a baptism, wedding, or funeral is needed.
47. Attendance theoretical limits on **indoor** baptism, wedding, or funeral services within the church is 50 people subject to masking and physical distancing restrictions as well.
48. Indoor receptions for these services may be considered – each reception will be considered on an individual basis and the rules of the Alberta Government Restrictions Exemption Program are fully followed. However, a reception can be a complicated affair as all attenders of the reception will be checked for the necessary documentation. **Attenders to a reception will have to produce proof of vaccination or a negative Covid-19 test result and produce government issued identification in accordance with Alberta Government CMOH Record of Decision 45-2021.** Please contact Michael Zukiwsky for more details and pre-arrangement – contact information available below.
49. Outdoor baptism, wedding, and funeral services and receptions are not covered by this communication.

End of Reopening Plan

We hope that the above information regarding the Parish's Reopening Plan is informative and helpful. Should you have any questions or need clarifications with regard to the Reopening Plan, or if you have questions regarding the rental or use of the Cultural Building, please contact Michael Zukiwsky by telephone at 780-660-0789 or by email at president@uocc-standrew.ca.

As a Board, we have the expectation that members and those visiting the Parish will follow the directives provided by the Provincial Health officials, the Church Hierarchy, and the Parish Reopening Plan.

We pray for your continued health and safety.

On behalf of the Board of Management of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish

Michael Zukiwsky, President