

Holy Nativity Antiochian Orthodox Church's COVID-19 Safety Plan

Employers must develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan that outlines their policies, guidelines, and procedures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Employers are not required to submit plans to WorkSafeBC for approval, but in accordance with the order of the provincial health officer, this plan must be posted at the worksite.

Step 1: Assess the risks at your workplace

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads in several ways. It can spread in droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. It can also spread if you touch a contaminated surface and then touch your face.

The risk of person-to-person transmission increases the closer you come to other people, the more time you spend near them, and the more people you come near.

The risk of surface transmission increases when many people contact the same surface and when those contacts happen over short periods of time.

Involve workers when assessing your workplace

Identify areas where there may be risks, either through close physical proximity or through contaminated surfaces. The closer together workers are and the longer they are close to each other, the greater the risk.

[x] We have involved frontline workers, supervisors, and the joint health and safety committee (or worker health and safety representative, if applicable).

- *This includes the Parish Council volunteers and the one employee (Priest).*

[x] We have identified areas where people gather, such as break rooms, production lines, and meeting rooms.

- *Alter*
- *Entrances*
- *Communion/Blessing line-up*

[x] We have identified job tasks and processes where workers are close to one another or members of the public. This can occur in your workplace, in worker vehicles, or at other work locations (if your workers travel offsite as part of their jobs).

- *Serving at the alter*
- *Communion/Blessing line*
- *In-person counselling*

[x] We have identified the tools, machinery, and equipment that workers share while working.

- *Censor*
- *Candles/Lamps*
- *Music stands/binders*
- *Communion spoon*

- *Cross*

[X] We have identified surfaces that people touch often, such as doorknobs, elevator buttons, and light switches.

- *Doorknobs*
- *Light switches*
- *Icons*
- *Cross*
- *Donation boxes*
- *Bathrooms*

Step 2: Implement protocols to reduce the risks

Select and implement protocols to minimize the risks of transmission. Look to the following for information, input, and guidance:

[X] Review industry-specific protocols on worksafebc.com to determine whether any are relevant to your industry. Guidance for additional sectors will be posted as they become available. If protocols are developed specific to your sector, implement these to the extent that they are applicable to the risks at your workplace. You may need to identify and implement additional protocols if the posted protocols don't address all the risks to your workers.

- *Faith-based organizations*
- *Choirs & Bands*
- *In-Person Counselling*

[X] Frontline workers, supervisors, and the joint health and safety committee (or worker representative).

- *One employee (Priest)*
- *Parish Council volunteers*

[X] Orders, guidance, and notices issued by the provincial health officer and relevant to your industry.

- *Provincial Order on Gatherings & Events*

[X] Your health and safety association or other professional and industry associations.

- *Directives from Antiochian Archdiocese of North America*

Different protocols offer different levels of protection. Wherever possible, use the protocol that offers the highest level of protection. Consider controls from additional levels if the first level isn't practicable or does not completely control the risk. You will likely need to incorporate controls from various levels to address the risk at your workplace.

First level protection (elimination) — Limit the number of people in your workplace where possible by implementing work-from-home arrangements, establishing occupancy limits, rescheduling work tasks, or other means. Rearrange work spaces to

ensure that workers are at least 2 m (6 ft.) from co-workers, customers, and members of the public.

Second level protection (engineering controls) — If you can't always maintain physical distancing, install barriers such as plexiglass to separate people.

Third level protection (administrative controls) — Establish rules and guidelines, such as posted occupancy limits for shared spaces, designated delivery areas, cleaning practices, and one-way doors and walkways to keep people physically separated.

Fourth level protection (PPE) — If the first three levels of protection aren't enough to control the risk, consider the use of non-medical masks. Be aware of the limitations of non-medical masks to protect the wearer from respiratory droplets. Ensure workers are using masks appropriately.

First level protection (elimination): Limit the number of people at the workplace and ensure physical distance whenever possible

[X] We have established and posted an occupancy limit for our premises. Public Health has advised that the prohibition on gatherings of greater than 50 people refers to "one-time or episodic events" (weddings, public gatherings), and is therefore not intended to apply to workplaces. However, limiting the number of people in a workplace is an important way to ensure physical distancing is maintained. [Public Health has developed guidance for the retail food and grocery store sector that requires at least 5 square metres of unencumbered floor space per person (workers and customers). This allows for variation depending on the size of the facility, and may be a sensible approach for determining maximum capacity for employers from other sectors that do not have specific guidance on capacity from Public Health.]

- Nave: 6.4m x 9.5m; max occupancy: 18.
- Hall: 9.4m x 12.3m; max occupancy: 30.

[X] In order to reduce the number of people at the worksite, we have considered work-from-home arrangements, virtual meetings, rescheduling work tasks, and limiting the number of customers and visitors in the workplace.

- *Parish council meets remotely*
- *Established occupancy limits*
- *Providing virtual participation options*

[X] We have established and posted occupancy limits for common areas such as break rooms, meeting rooms, change rooms, washrooms, and elevators.

- *Occupancy limit for alter: (3)*
- *Occupancy limit for sanctuary: (18, including chanters)*
- *Occupancy limit for hall: (30)*
- *Occupancy limit for washrooms: (1) each*

We have implemented measures to keep workers and others at least 2 metres apart, wherever possible. Options include revising work schedules and reorganizing work tasks.

- *Limit of 3 people in the altar*

Measures in place:

- *Parish Council is meeting virtually.*
- *Priest is offering more services and recommending parishioners attend less-attended/mid-week services.*
- *Services are being livestreamed to enable virtual attendance.*
- *Occupancy limits for attendees have been calculated based on square footage and are posted at the building and online.*
- *Those wishing to attend services in person must sign up in advance.*
- *Chanting is limited to two chanters, with a minimum of 2 meters distance between each other and attendees.*
- *Limit of 3 people serving in the altar, to ensure 2 meters distance between them.*

Second level protection (engineering): Barriers and partitions

We have installed barriers where workers can't keep physically distant from co-workers, customers, or others.

We have included barrier cleaning in our cleaning protocols.

We have installed the barriers so they don't introduce other risks to workers (e.g., barriers installed inside a vehicle don't affect the safe operation of the vehicle).

Measures in place:

- *Second level protection (engineering) N/A*

Third level protection (administrative): Rules and guidelines

We have identified rules and guidelines for how workers should conduct themselves.

- *By reading archdiocesan directives, public health orders, guidance and notices.*

We have clearly communicated these rules and guidelines to workers through a combination of training and signage.

Measures in place:

- *Communion spoon is wiped with alcohol between serving family groups.*
- *Regular cleaning and sanitization of high-touch surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, icons, cross, and bathrooms) at the parish.*
- *Keeping a 30-day record of attendees for contact-tracing*

Fourth level protection: Using masks (optional measure in addition to other control measures)

We have reviewed the information on selecting and using masks and instructions on

how to use a mask.

[x] We understand the limitations of masks to protect the wearer from respiratory droplets. We understand that masks should only be considered when other control measures cannot be implemented.

[x] We have trained workers in the proper use of masks.

Measures in place:

- *Recommending employee and all attendees sanitize their hands upon entrance and consider wearing a mask, even with 2 meter physical distancing in place.*

Implement effective cleaning and hygiene practices

[x] We have reviewed the information on cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.

[x] Our workplace has enough handwashing facilities on site for all our workers. Handwashing locations are visible and easily accessed.

[x] We have policies that specify when workers must wash their hands and we have communicated good hygiene practices to workers. Frequent handwashing and good hygiene practices are essential to reduce the spread of the virus. [Handwashing and Cover coughs and sneezes posters are available at [worksafefbc.com](https://www.worksafefbc.com).]

- *Priest, altar boys, and chanters must wash or sanitize their hands when entering the church and as needed during services*

[x] We have implemented cleaning protocols for all common areas and surfaces — e.g., washrooms, tools, equipment, vehicle interiors, shared tables, desks, light switches, and door handles. This includes the frequency that these items must be cleaned (number of times per day) as well as the timing (before and after shift, after lunch, after use).

- See Holy Nativity Sanitization Log for details.

[x] Workers who are cleaning have adequate training and materials.

[] We have removed unnecessary tools and equipment to simplify the cleaning process — e.g., coffee makers and shared utensils and plates

Cleaning protocols:

- *Cleaning to be done after each service by priest or volunteers.*
- *Cleaning includes wiping down high-touch surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, icons, cross, donation box, bathrooms) with a bleach solution, or a similar cleaning agent.*

Step 3: Develop policies

Develop the necessary policies to manage your workplace, including policies around who can be at the workplace, how to address illness that arises at the workplace, and how workers can be kept safe in adjusted working conditions.

Our workplace policies ensure that workers and others showing symptoms of COVID-19 are prohibited from the workplace.

Anyone who has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days. Symptoms include fever, chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and new muscle aches or headache.

Anyone directed by Public Health to self-isolate.

Anyone who has arrived from outside of Canada or who has had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case must self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.

Visitors are prohibited or limited in the workplace.

First aid attendants have been provided OFAA protocols for use during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have a working alone policy in place (if needed).

We have a work from home policy in place (if needed).

Ensure workers have the training and strategies required to address the risk of violence that may arise as customers and members of the public adapt to restrictions or modifications to the workplace. Ensure an appropriate violence prevention program is in place.

Our policy addresses workers who may start to feel ill at work. It includes the following:

Sick workers should report to first aid, even with mild symptoms.

Sick workers should be asked to wash or sanitize their hands, provided with a mask, and isolated. Ask the worker to go straight home. [Consult the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, or call 811 for further guidance related to testing and self-isolation.]

If the worker is severely ill (e.g., difficulty breathing, chest pain), call 911.

Clean and disinfect any surfaces that the ill worker has come into contact with.

Step 4: Develop communication plans and training

You must ensure that everyone entering the workplace, including workers from other employers, knows how to keep themselves safe while at your workplace.

We have a training plan to ensure everyone is trained in workplace policies and procedures.

All workers have received the policies for staying home when sick.

We have posted signage at the workplace, including occupancy limits and effective hygiene practices. [A customizable occupancy limit poster and handwashing signage are available on [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com).]

We have posted signage at the main entrance indicating who is restricted from entering the premises, including visitors and workers with symptoms.

Supervisors have been trained on monitoring workers and the workplace to ensure policies and procedures are being followed.

Step 5: Monitor your workplace and update your plans as necessary

Things may change as your business operates. If you identify a new area of concern, or if it seems like something isn't working, take steps to update your policies and procedures. Involve workers in this process.

We have a plan in place to monitor risks. We make changes to our policies and procedures as necessary.

Workers know who to go to with health and safety concerns.

When resolving safety issues, we will involve joint health and safety committees or worker health and safety representatives (or, in smaller workplaces, other workers).

Step 6: Assess and address risks from resuming operations

If your workplace has not been operating for a period of time during the COVID-19 pandemic, you may need to manage risks arising from restarting your business.

We have a training plan for new staff.

We have a training plan for staff taking on new roles or responsibilities.

We have a training plan around changes to our business, such as new equipment, processes, or products.

We have reviewed the start-up requirements for vehicles, equipment, and machinery that have been out of use.

[] We have identified a safe process for clearing systems and lines of product that have been out of use.

Be advised that personal information must not be included in the COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Personal information is any recorded information that uniquely identifies a person, such as name, address, telephone number, age, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, fingerprints, or blood type. It includes information about a person's health care, educational, financial, criminal or employment history. Visit the OIPC's website for more information. More details relating to this app can be found in its privacy policy.