



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE • ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ • PATRIARCAT ŒCUMÉNIQUE
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΚΑΝΑΔΑ
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA • L'ARCHIDIOCÈSE GREC ORTHODOXE DU CANADA
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June 09, 2020

Rev. Father, Hon. President,
& Est. Members of the Community Council,
Churches of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada
In Ontario

Beloved in Christ,

Plan for the Reopening of the Churches

1. Church leaders are responsible for the implementation and adherence to all health regulations issued by each Province. If any particular parish feels that they are not ready to implement the following guidelines immediately, they can postpone re-opening for up to a week.
2. All those in high risk groups are strongly urged to stay home in accordance with government guidelines.
3. Each Church according to its area should determine how many people it can safely host per service, while maintaining government guidelines (2 m social distancing and 30% capacity).
4. There should be more services during the week to accommodate all the faithful, or more than one (1) service will be done daily so people can attend and maintain social distancing.
5. Only one chanter per chanting station (analogion) is permitted.
6. Up to five (5) altar boys per service are permitted (depending on size of altar area) and only one sexton.
7. When full capacity of 30% is reached, no parishioners will be allowed into the Church. Additional people are free to wait outside until the end of Liturgy, maintaining social distance. Please note that Church halls can be used for additional seating, provided they do not surpass 30% of the hall's occupancy and still maintain social distancing. When Liturgy concludes clergy have 2 options: a) After the first group exits the Church, those waiting outside may be allowed in to receive Holy Communion or b) If they are too many



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people, clergy can consider, or even plan beforehand, to have additional services the same day.

8. Loud speakers outside the Church (if present) should be turned on for those who are waiting outside.
9. Board members and ushers **MUST** wear masks and gloves as they come into contact with a greater amount of people.
10. The front doors of the Church should remain permanently open during Divine Liturgy so that parishioners do not have to touch the door handles and should be monitored at all times by a board member/volunteer.
11. Install automatic hand sanitizer stands at the doors and in the Church so that those not wearing gloves may disinfect their hands when entering and leaving the Church.
12. It is encouraged, when possible, that a plexiglass barrier should be installed at the candle stands (where we provide candles) to protect council members. Council members are **NOT** to give change for people at the candle stand.
13. It is encouraged that people should venerate the icons by bowing, however, if they do kiss the icons, there must always be someone on hand to spray the icon with sanitizer afterward. It is also mandatory that cleaning and sanitation of high traffic items such as icons, rails, door knobs, pews and anything that is frequently used, be done between services (in the case where there are multiple services being done in the same day).
14. The pews in the Church **MUST** be marked with masking tape, both staggered from the front to back and also in every pew there will be an "X" where people can sit two meters apart. Families will be allowed to sit together, however, each person will be counted separately in your headcount.
15. There **MUST** be masking tape on the ground in the centre aisle so people know how far apart to stand when lining up for Holy Communion. Consequently, all places that may have a line up (like the candle stand or icons) should be marked with a safe distance.
16. When approaching for Holy Communion parishioners should refrain from touching the red communion cloth and are also encouraged to open their mouth wide.
17. Antidoro will be distributed by the priest.
18. Use of washrooms is allowed, but should be equipped with sanitizers all the time.



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19. The collection tray WILL NOT be passed but rather held at the back where people can give their offering on their way out.
20. People can still give prosfora for Liturgy and bring Kolyva for memorials, however they cannot distribute kolyva at the Church. They must immediately take them at the end of Liturgy and leave. Baptisms, weddings and funerals that require social gathering must comply with health regulations.

Yours with fatherly love and fervent prayers in Christ,

Archbishop Sotirios

Archbishop Sotirios of Canada
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada