

Dear church family,

As we move into the Advent/Christmas season, we anticipate larger gatherings for worship and social events like O Holy Night. This is also a time to anticipate increased seasonal risk of COVID-19 transmission. On Tuesday, November 30th, Dr. Bonnie Henry provided new guidance to religious organisations. In summary,

- if all participants are vaccinated there are no capacity restrictions for worship services
- if all participants are not vaccinated, worship services are limited to 50% of capacity
- masking requirements are tightened

From the beginning of pandemic restrictions, Session has adopted the approach of being cautious and sensitive to the most vulnerable in our church family, and will continue to do so. And, we do not want to put limits on our capacity.

So, beginning this Sunday, December 5th, we will be requiring everyone 12 years and older entering the church building to provide proof of full vaccination. Here are the details:

- proof means the BC Vaccine Card (on your phone or hardcopy) or other documentation such as the slips you were given when you got your shots
- we will maintain a list so that once you are verified, you need not provide proof again
- this will apply to Sunday worship and all other congregational events held at RPC
- visitors, in addition to the above, will provide contact information in the event we need to reach them later
- masks are required at all times in the building
 - o our masking protocol in the sanctuary is already in compliance with the new regulation
 - o at Munch and Mingle masks may be removed temporarily only when seated for eating and drinking - if you are standing or moving from place to place, masks are required

For those who are unable to or choose not to attend we hope that you will watch our services online.

If you have questions or concerns about this new policy, please contact your elder, the Clerk of Session, or Victor. If you have questions or concerns about vaccination, please contact Heather Campbell, hecampbe@shaw.ca, an elder in our congregation and retired public health nurse.

Adopting this sort of 'checkpoint' into the house of God is not what we would wish. But we believe that the responsible thing to do for everyone's wellbeing is following the guidance to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission within our congregation.

Have a blessed Advent,

Graeme Stager, Clerk of Session