

Update on Messiah's COVID-19 Protocols
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Worship:

Since September 19th 2021, attendees at Messiah's worship services have followed the September 15th, 2021 Provincial Health Order that states *a person must . . .*

1. *wear a face mask at all times while attending an indoor public place.*
2. *maintain a physical distance of two meters from any other person who is not part of the person's cohort*

Since the September 15th Provincial Health Order, places of worship have been . . . *limited to thirty-three percent of the total operational occupant load as determined in accordance with the Alberta Fire Code and the fire authority having jurisdiction.* Keeping in mind physical distancing the capacity for Messiah is currently 160 attendees.

People attending worship services are not asked for their vaccination status.

Weddings and Funerals:

On September 20th, the following mandatory restrictions came into effect:

Indoor wedding ceremonies and funeral services are permitted up to 50 people or 50% fire code occupancy, whichever is less.

Indoor wedding and funeral receptions are prohibited, unless the hosting facility implements the Restrictions Exemption Program.

Consequently, on September 28th, Church Council passed an Interim Restrictions Exemption Program that allowed Messiah to operate without the above restrictions, *provided they are serving only people who have proof of immunization, have a negative privately-paid test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours, or have an original (non-copied) medical exemption letter.*

Messiah's Restrictions Exemption Program was further edited, passed by Council on October 20th, and is attached.

Restrictions Exemption Program
Messiah Lutheran Church
October 20, 2021

Overview

Messiah Lutheran Church has adopted the Province's Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) for all gatherings except worship services, until such time as restrictions are removed by the Province. This program will enable Messiah to operate without the majority of public health restrictions in CMOH-Order 42-2021.

These measures have been introduced at this time because of the high number of cases of COVID-19 in our province and our desire to protect the health of those entering our facilities.

PROGRAM DETAILS

General

Face masks are required for all events held in Messiah facilities.

Youth participating in youth activities, where all participants are under the age of 18 years of age, are not required to be under Messiah's REP (see youth section for more details).

Individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms must isolate, in accordance with CMOH Order 39-2021.

When there is an event occurring at Messiah that is under REP there will be a poster at each entrance that indicates that the REP is in effect and what the requirements are for admission.

Screening Process

Messiah will ensure that the sponsors of each event under REP will screen all attendees for one of the following at the point(s) of entry:

- Proof of vaccination; or
- Proof of a negative privately-paid test result from a sample that is taken within the prior 72 hours; or
- An original (non-copied) medical exemption letter.

Individuals 18 years or older must produce valid personal identification as defined in the personal ID section below.

- Individuals who are under the age of 18 do not need to show personal identification.

At minimum, the process will include:

- The name and the date of birth of the individual listed on the proof of immunization or testing must be matched with the name and the date of birth on the identification (for 18+).
- Verification that the proof of vaccination is appropriate (see below) OR the test result indicates the individual has tested negative for COVID-19 within the last 72 hours (see below), or the medical exemption letter is an original and in the prescribed form.

Valid Proof of Vaccination

The attendee seeking entry to the Messiah event is solely responsible for demonstrating that they are the legitimate holder of the vaccination record, and that the information being provided is complete and accurate.

- If they cannot demonstrate the above to the Messiah screener, the individual must not be allowed to enter.

Proof of vaccination includes:

- A picture or paper record of a valid Alberta Health Services, MyHealth Records, pharmacy, First Nations, or physician immunization record prominently displaying the name, type of vaccine and the date of administration, or
- Canadian armed forces immunization record, displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration, or
- An immunization record from another Canadian Province or Territory, displaying the name, type of vaccine and date of administration, or
- Valid Government of Alberta Vaccination QR code (when available).

Screeners must verify that the date of administration of the last required dose in the series is at least fourteen days prior to the date the attendee is seeking access to the Messiah event.

- Up to October 25: At least one dose is required at least 14 days prior.
- October 25 and later: Two doses of a two-dose series are required, with the second at least 14 days prior. (Note that the Janssen [Johnson and Johnson] vaccine is the only Health Canada approved vaccine that requires only a single dose for a complete series— if an individual has received one dose of a Janssen vaccine at least two weeks prior, this would be considered sufficient)

For international travelers, the ArriveCan app code and a valid international travel identification document is acceptable.

Valid Proof of a Negative Result

Testing **must not** be sourced from the Alberta Health Services public COVID-19 testing system.

The test result should be a written or printed copy that indicates the individual has tested negative for COVID-19 on a Health Canada approved rapid antigen, rapid PCR, or lab-based PCR test approved by Health Canada or the lab accreditation body of jurisdiction.

Documentation of a test completed offsite must include:

- A clear indication of the laboratory or the health care professional that completed the test (e.g., DynaLIFE), the type of test, time of sample collection, and clear indication of a negative result.
- If the result of a rapid test is being verified by a health care professional, a written record must also include the name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the physician or nurse practitioner.
- A picture or any other written documentation of a rapid test result taken off site is not sufficient evidence for entry.
- Individuals must not bring completed rapid tests or self-tests to Messiah, as they can pose a communicable disease risk during transportation.

Valid Medical Exemption

A valid medical exemption is the original signed letter from a physician or nurse practitioner that includes:

- The name of the person in the written documentation that matches the identification provided.
- The physician's or nurse practitioner's information is complete by including:
- Name, phone number, contact information, professional registration number, and signature of the physician or nurse practitioner;
- Statement that there is a medical reason for the individual's exemption from being fully vaccinated against COVID-19; and
- The duration that the exemption is valid.

Valid Personal ID

Individuals who are 18 years of age or older must also present personal ID.

Proof of identity can be established using documentation issued by an institution or public body, provided it includes the name of the holder and date of birth.

Examples of identification documents that may be used to confirm the identity of the holder of the vaccine receipt include:

- Birth certificate,
- Citizenship card,
- Driver's license,
- Provincial or Territorial Government issued identification card, including health card (Alberta or other),
- Metis card, Treaty card, Inuit Status card, or
- Passport, or
- Permanent Resident card.

Photo identification is not required.

Workers, Contractors, Staff, etc.

Contractors, repair workers, delivery workers, inspectors or others who are entering Messiah for work purposes and not as attendees of an event are not required to be screened except as indicated below:

Mutual Support Groups

Individuals participating in mutual support groups at Messiah are not required to be screened as part of the REP.

Youth Activities and Youth Participation

For the purposes of this program, a youth is someone who is under the age of 18 years of age.

Youth participating in youth activities at Messiah are not required to be screened as part of the REP.

- Parents or youth leaders who are required to support youth in their activities would be required to be screened.