

Welcome Back



COVID Re Entry Plan | October 2021

*subject to change as per guidelines provided by Waterloo Public Health are released

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a clear and as concise as possible Elmira Pentecostal Assembly's policy for re-entry with regard to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Our intentions are on the health and safety of everyone who would attend and call EPA home.

Building Numbers & Capacity

- Current guidelines have no capacity on the number of people allowed in a space, however a 2m (6ft) distance must be consistently maintained between people from different households.
- The Fellowship Hall will be open to serve as an added space for those attending service. It will not serve as an 'overflow' area, rather, open to anyone who might want to be there instead of the main sanctuary.
- Attendees will reserve a seat in either the main sanctuary or fellowship hall prior to arriving on Sunday morning. Everyone will be seated by an usher and expected to maintain a 2m (6ft) distance from other households.
- Specific pews have been "roped off" to help maintain distance as well
- Only 1 person/household will be permitted in any washroom at one time.
 - Extra waste baskets will be placed outside the washrooms to allow for disposal of paper towels used to open doors.
 - A sanitization station will be available in the front foyer for washroom patrons
- We will continue to offer a live-streamed service which will be accessible to all with an appropriate internet connection.
- A reminder email for the service will be sent out on Thursday leading up to service. This email will include a reminder for self-screening as well as all necessary guidelines for those coming to the building.
 - This reminder email will also contain a direct link to view the service via live-stream on Sunday morning.

Entrance & Exit Guidelines

- Pre-Service – main entrance will be utilized as the entry point. Persons who plan to leave in this timeframe will be encouraged to exit the building through the back door as to allow for continuous flow in through the front doors
- Greeters located at each door are instructed to open doors for everyone as to minimize the amount of touch points for everyone. For days with warmer weather, the door may simply be propped open for convenience.

- All attendees must sign in at the booth in the main foyer upon entry. This will allow for contact tracing if necessary.
- Ushers will be stationed at the back of the sanctuary and the entrance to the fellowship hall to help people find seats and to help enforce space between households. Ushers and Greeters should work together to help everyone maintain distance and control traffic flow into the building.
- Post Service – main entrance will be utilized as congregants leave. People are encouraged not to re enter the building. Maintaining distance is encouraged for those who want to socialize outdoors. Everyone is reminded to be mindful of vehicle's driving in the parking lot.
- Ushers will dismiss people from the sanctuary starting at the back and working their way forward to allow a continuous flow of traffic as well as to minimize 'overlap' of people exiting.

Personal Protective Equipment

- All people are required to wear a face-covering (mask) over their mouth, nose and chin at all times while in the building
 - A limited number of masks will be available at the entrance for those who need one.
 - Exceptions are given ONLY to:
 - Those with a medical exemption.
 - Persons under 3 years old
 - Those conducting the service. Their masks may be removed while speaking into a microphone. I.e. Leading worship, Giving announcements or preaching.
- Hand sanitizing stations have been strategically placed throughout the building for anyone to use.

Miscellaneous Details

- SIGNAGE will be located throughout the building to remind people of the need to wear a mask as well as maintain physical distance. A self-screening questionnaire will also be posted at each entrance.
- COMMUNION will continue as normal with pre-packaged supplies. Elements will be picked up at the beginning of service when attendees arrive.
- COFFEE/TEA after service during fellowship is suspended until further notice.

- OFFERING will not be collected during the service. Tithes and offerings are encouraged to be given through e-transfer, or dropped off in the offering box located in the main foyer.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS related to Covid-19 guidelines will be made at the beginning of service. This will remind people of our policy on face coverings, distancing, etc.
- WORSHIP. Though singing is permitted, we encourage everyone to worship in other ways like humming and clapping.

Notes

- As of the time of writing the province of Ontario has introduced Covid-19 vaccine passports to allow fully vaccinated Canadians into specific public spaces. So far no guidelines have been given to churches about the enforcements of these passports for religious gatherings. We have chosen not to enforce them at this time.
- For anyone who refuses to wear a mask without a legitimate medical exemption we will only ask that they comply with the regulations set out by Waterloo Public Health. We as a church are enforcing adequate policy for the safety of everyone, and as such are not liable should public health file a report about said person.