

March 10, 2021 - Bishop Sandra

Covid-19 Update: Nova Scotia

This afternoon faith leaders from across the province met with Dr. Robert Strang. He advised us that everything is on track for every Nova Scotian who wants to be vaccinated to receive their first dose by the end of June. During the summer and fall, administering the second dose will be a priority. There are hopes that travel within the Maritimes region could open up between now and the end of April, with travel to and from Newfoundland and Labrador likely to follow as soon as it appears safe. He said that travel beyond the Atlantic region without two weeks of self-isolation isn't likely for some time yet.

Gathering Limits: The current gathering limits for Faith Gatherings will remain at this time (150 outdoors or 50% of a building's capacity up to 50 people maximum). If we continue to be careful and cautious and the vaccine roll-out continues as planned, gathering limits may increase by the summer. Dr. Strang doesn't anticipate a significant change in gathering limits before Easter. For the most up-to-date information go to: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): restrictions and guidance - Government of Nova Scotia, Canada](#)

Gathering Limits for Funerals/Weddings: If funerals or weddings are held in a faith facility or funeral home (in the case of funerals), the gathering limits are the same as for Faith Gatherings (above). Weddings being held in hotels or other venues, for instance, are limited to ten people. If you have weddings or funerals planned in a facility other than a church building, please note that distinction or contact Dr. Strang's office for guidance.

Music/Congregational Singing: No changes are anticipated before Easter. Please see detailed changes regarding musicians, choirs and congregational singing on the Covid-19 website for the province [COVID-19-Guidance-for-Vocalists-and-Instrumentalists.pdf](#) (novascotia.ca) or refer to a previous edition of the NetNews.

Arts and Culture Events: Faith facilities can host Arts and Culture events as per the provincial Public Health guidelines. Dr. Strang hopes that we can lift restrictions on other Special Events and Festivals soon.

Covid-19 Update: Prince Edward Island

Circuit breaker measures are in place until 8am March 14th. Please see the provincial website for further details: [Worship Services Guidance | Government of Prince Edward Island](#).

Gathering Limits: The current gathering limits (up to 50 people for worship services) remain in place at this time.

Prince Edward Island – It was announced today that PEI will be moving out of the red-level lockdown that has been in place since Monday of this week. Please visit the provincial

government website at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/covid19> for updates on how this impacts on faith gatherings, including funerals and weddings. This website had not been updated by the time the NetNews was being prepared.

Nova Scotia – After last week’s update in the NetNews further restrictions were announced for parts of Halifax, Hants and Lunenburg County. To see how these restrictions impact on gathering limits for parish and church events, please visit the provincial government website at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/county-restrictions/>. The next briefing with Dr. Strang and faith leaders is Weds., March 10th. We are questioning why the gathering limits for faith gatherings is different than those for weddings and funerals in those counties with further restrictions and will post updated information on the diocesan website once that is clarified. In the meantime, gathering limits are set by the Department of Health at 10 people for either funerals or weddings (including officiant) until further notice in those counties as detailed on the provincial government website. Funeral visitations and receptions are not permitted at this time in those parts of the province where additional restrictions have been announced.

In both NS and PEI, Public Health guidance and restrictions change rapidly based on where positive case results are occurring and under what circumstances. Please check the appropriate government website daily to be sure you have accurate information.