

St. James Anglican Church, Halifax

March 31st 2022

Our Parish Council met Wednesday March 30th 2022 to discuss the Provincial lifting of restrictions and Diocesan guidelines and to make decisions about how we will move forward.

We realize that our congregation may have mixed feelings around the pace at which we lift our own safety measures. The following decisions were made prayerfully and after much discussion. We want people to feel safe coming to church. We also want to gradually lift some restrictions.

- We will continue to wear masks in the church building and hall when others are present. (It can only be removed if you are socially distanced while leading part of the service or eating or drinking). Masks **must** always be worn while singing.
- We ask that people continue to sanitize and wash their hands frequently.
- Social Distancing will no longer be mandatory. Please ask before you come closer than six feet with another person. There are some people that will still want to social distance and it is important to respect the boundaries of others. We will still be keeping some pews closed. People can move freely within the church, we will no longer require entering or exiting through certain isles.
- We will start to receive communion at the altar rail beginning April 3rd 2022. People can still receive from their pews if they wish. Please take communion back to your seat to consume.
- We are not encouraging handshaking at this time. Therefore we will continue our practice of greeting one another with the peace from a distance.

- We are going to wait a while to start coffee hour again. It has been two years since we have been allowed to be close to one another. We will start by getting comfortable being closer while masked. We encourage people to socialize after the service as you are comfortable.
- Starting May 1st we will stop contact tracing (signing people in at the start of the service) and we will begin receiving communion in two kinds. At this time we are not allowed to use the Common Cup so we will try using a dropper. The bread will be given first followed by wine dropped on to the bread. Please be patient as it may take a while to get used to this new practice.