

# A COMMUNIQUE ON COVID-19

PAONL Church Protocols – March 15, 2020

In recent weeks there has been a growing concern over the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) worldwide. With the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020, many government agencies and other organizations are making recommendations for precautionary measures to be initiated on an international, national and provincial scale. Out of concern for their members, a lot of Christian organizations such as the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC), Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC), and denominations have also disseminated communiques with similar recommendations.

Since one of the biggest concerns over the spread of COVID-19 involves workplaces and public gatherings, The Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland and Labrador, out of concern for its members, is making the following recommendations to Pastors and Boards for implementation in their assemblies:

- Ensure office and public areas of church facilities are kept sanitized regularly
- Encourage proper handwashing and provide hand sanitizer units in buildings
- Promote healthy respiratory hygiene with regard to coughing, sneezing, etc.
- Establish precautionary protocols for the facilitation of communion services
- Request that everyone withhold from handshaking during public gatherings
- Facilitate social distancing of six (6) feet or more between people in groups

- Reduce the frequency of in-person worship services, meetings, events, etc.
- Restrict hands-on ministry activity involving food, children, youth, seniors, etc.
- Ask staff members and attenders to stay home if they experience symptoms
- Require 14-day self-isolation for out-of-province/country travel or exposure
- Implement stay-at-home accommodations for staff who have been exposed
- Communicate with church staff and attenders regarding COVID-19 updates

In addition to communication from the PAONL, everyone is encouraged to be informed by paying attention to credible sources of media information and visiting the following links:

- World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int>
- Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov>
- Government of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en.html>
- Government of NL: <https://www.gov.nl.ca>
- EFC: <https://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca>
- CCCC: <https://www.cccc.org>

Thank you for your concern and cooperation regarding this very important matter. We trust the above information will assist you in helping us to manage this concern within our assembly. Please be assured of our prayers, support and ongoing communication as we continue to navigate this unique challenge together.

