

New Directives for Faith Communities

Changes to COVID-19 restrictions issued by Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Officer have included a few items that directly affect faith communities.

The 30-person limit on worship services continues and includes gatherings for Mass, weddings, funerals, and baptisms. This 30-person limit does not include necessary presiders, ministers, ushers, as well as one cantor and one musician, though parishes are asked to keep the number of support persons as low as possible. The 30-person limit includes additional choir members who must be counted as part of the 30 in attendance.

The Guidelines for Places of Worship have also been revised to explicitly exclude the possibility of holding concurrent celebrations in separate rooms within the same facility. It now reads: "All places of worship must reduce capacity to 30 people, including wedding, funeral, and baptismal services. No food or drink may be present or served. Services must be held in their usual location. Concurrent services in other rooms within the facility are not permitted." This means that the 30-person capacity limit applies to the whole facility, not to individual rooms.

These revised health orders come into effect this Thursday, December 17 and will remain in effect until January 15, 2021. All restrictions issued in past health orders remain in effect, including mandatory masking for all public gatherings.