

MASK UPDATE

As a church we are aware of the update made by Durham Region on Sept. 28th requiring the wearing of non-medical masks or face coverings in indoor public places. In compliance with the Durham Health department we have posted the updated guidelines for places of worship in various locations within our lobby at both buildings. And we are providing masks for people to wear at the entrances.

Similar to other public places there are people who have exemptions from wearing a mask. Per the Durham Region guidelines, "masks do not need to be worn during a religious rite or ceremony that's incompatible with the face being covered." Furthermore, a person is exempt from wearing a non-medical mask or face covering on the premises if:

- The person is a child under the age of two years; or a child under the age of five years either chronologically or developmentally and he or she refuses to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver;
- The person is unable to remove their mask without assistance;
- Wearing a non-medical mask or face covering would inhibit the person's ability to breathe in any way;
- For any other medical reason, the person cannot safely wear a non-medical mask or face covering such as, but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or processing information;
- For any religious reason the person cannot wear a non-medical mask or face covering, or cannot cover the face in a manner that would properly control the source.

As with other public places, we are not to deny service to anyone who comes in without a mask. A person does not have to show proof of their exemption. There is no need for an exemption card, or a letter from a physician. We will continue to educate and follow best practices to provide a healthy environment for people to gather for worship under our Biblical commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, freedom for the Gospel, and Charter liberty.

We will continue to remain in contact with Durham Health officials and continue the conversation of best practices in church settings so that we can provide a physically healthy environment, while ensuring a spiritually robust mission.