



Variance issued by Dr. Henry regarding Fraser Valley churches

Effective immediately, Provincial Health Officer Dr Henry has issued a conditional variance allowing in-person worship gatherings at **the Riverside Calvary Chapel in Langley, Immanuel Covenant Reformed Church in Abbotsford and Free Reformed Church of Chilliwack** to be held outdoors, provided they comply with the following conditions:

Capacity, Setting and Attendee Limitations

1. The maximum number of people attending a service is 25.
2. Services are to be held outdoors.
3. Due to higher risk of serious complications of COVID-19 infection, the organizer must advise and encourage the following people to NOT attend in-person services:
 - a. People over the age of 70 (even if immunized, as there is currently uncertainty about the timing and duration of protection from immunization);
 - b. People who are living with someone with COVID-19, or upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms;
 - c. People with underlying medical conditions or compromised immune systems that put them at higher risk of severe illness or complications from COVID-19;

Preparation

1. To support contact tracing in case of an exposure to an infected participant, the organizer must:
 - a. pre-register participants to assure maximum number of attendees is not exceeded
 - b. collect the first and last names and telephone number, or email address, of every participant who attends a service;
 - c. retain this information for thirty days, in case there is a need for contact tracing on the part of the medical health officer, in which case the information must be provided to the medical health officer; and
 - d. destroy the information after thirty days.
2. Before attending the service, all participants must carry out a health check, which means reviewing the questions on the health check poster at <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/posters/help-prevent-spread-covid-19-entry-check-workers?lang=en>
3. If a participant has not carried out or passed the health check, they must not be present at the service.
4. If a participant exhibits [symptoms of COVID-19](#) they must not attend the service;
5. Hand sanitation supplies are to be readily available.

Conduct of Services

1. Every participant will wear a non-medical face covering or mask.
2. Celebrants may remove their mask when speaking, but there must be at least a three-metre separation between them and other participants or there must be a physical barrier between them and other participants which blocks the transmission of droplets.
3. Each participant is to maintain 2 metres physical distance from one another, unless they reside in the same household.
4. No service will last more than one hour.



5. There will be no social gatherings or social interaction among participants before or after the services, whether indoors or outdoors.
6. There is to be no passing of a collection bag or plate and no sharing of ceremonial objects.
7. Participants are not permitted to sing or chant.
8. Participants must disperse immediately after a service and must not congregate with patrons who are leaving the service or arriving for a subsequent service.

In summary, pursuant to section 43 (3) (c) of the Public Health Act (excerpt below), Dr Henry is varying the Gatherings and Events order with respect to the services further to the conditions above. The other applicable requirements of the Gatherings and Events order posted on the PHO website continue to be in force: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Please note that this variance does not have an expiry date but may be withdrawn at any time by Dr Henry should conditions exist that warrant doing so in the interests of protecting public health, such as if the variants of concern proliferate in the general population or we see increasing community transmission due to other factors.

**Public Health Act excerpt
Reconsideration of orders**

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3. After considering a request for reconsideration, a health officer may do one or more of the following:
 - a. reject the request on the basis that the information submitted in support of the request
 - i. is not relevant, or
 - ii. was reasonably available at the time the order was issued;
 - b. delay the date the order is to take effect or suspend the order, if satisfied that doing so would not be detrimental to public health;
 - c. confirm, rescind or vary the order.

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