

When will Northview Reopen?

We like to think that we never closed, we just stopped meeting in person. The Government continues to recommend delivering services virtually.

We could meet in person with a long list of recommendations and restrictions. What would meeting in person look like?

- Maximum 60 people. Families have to sit 6 feet apart in groups of 30 with 16 feet between groups of 30. We don't have the space to start a third group of 30 people so Northview's maximum today is 60 people.
- If we had two services there would need to be enough time between services where the second group doesn't make contact with the first group and enough time to clean and disinfect common surfaces between services. Even with two services we would have to turn people away at the door.
- For contact tracing we would need an accurate list of everyone attending. One solution would be to line up outside the Church as an usher records your families names and takes you to your seat. Shared pens and paper are discouraged so passing paper down the aisle would not be an option.
- Paper bulletins will be difficult to manage and care would need to be taken to properly discard them.
- Dismissal of gatherings should be done in a way that supports physical distancing. To ensure physical distancing we would not be able to accommodate visiting before or after the service.
- The chairs would need to be rearranged to allow entering and exiting rows while maintaining 6 feet of distance between families.
- People who are medically vulnerable should continue to participate in services online.
- To ensure virtual services are available for people who cannot attend, we need to continue to pre-record our service. We are committed to keeping the quality we have today but things can happen when broadcasting live and when things fail there is no way to recover.
- Discovery land and child care would be extremely difficult or not available.
- Higher risk activities should be avoided, including: Handshaking, passing objects, singing, communion, passing offering baskets and handling pew Bibles.
- Worship leaders need to increase their distance from the congregation to avoid transmission of respiratory droplets. Masks are to be worn while singing and participating in the service.
- Hebrews coffee, tea and water would not be allowed.
- Number of people in the bathrooms would need to be restricted.
- Visiting in the parking lot would look irresponsible to our neighbours or media.
- We want to avoid spreading the virus to the people we love at all costs.

With the listed restrictions required to reopen Northview, the church we are missing now won't be safely available at this time. Without social interaction you are left with a service you can watch from the comfort of your home. **The board will continue to evaluate as restrictions are removed but for now we will not reopen our building.**