

2020-05-26 Call with Premier John Horgan, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Health Minister Adrian Dix

1. John Horgan began with a lament of all the acts of racism during this time and thanked the faith communities for being a voice of anti-racism and anti-hate.
2. We must continue to have gatherings with no more than 50 people present and continue to be physically distanced.

50 is not a scientific number, but it has been established for two reasons:
 1. to limit the spread if someone who is infected participates in the gathering, and
 2. to limit the number of people to be tracked when that becomes necessary.
3. If we are meeting publicly, be sure to clean the area, especially the high touch surfaces, before the next new people come into that area.
4. There is concern for the fall when flu season starts up again.
 1. The current guidelines are expected to remain in place through this season.
5. Testing, tracing, and tracking will take place when the virus is spread in a public gathering (hopefully to be able to be done within 24 hours).
 1. This is to prevent explosive spreading.
6. A church in Frankfurt, Germany recently met, with 150 people in attendance.
 1. There was a spread of COVID-19; 107 people tested positive, and there were some deaths.
7. Here are responses to Questions that were asked:
 1. My two questions from our pastors:
 1. Ask about particular guidelines for summer day camps.
 1. Dr. Henry said that the BC Centre for Disease Control, <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>, is working on this, and a guideline will be coming soon.
 2. Ask for more clarity on congregational singing.
 1. Dr. Henry simply pointed to two stories of explosive spreading of the virus that involved singing:
 2. In the Frankfurt spread of the virus in a church gathering mentioned above, singing was the biggest problem.
 3. In the Seattle choir incident of the spread of COVID-19: of 60 choir members, there were 45 who were diagnosed with COVID-19 or were ill with symptoms, and 2 deaths.
 4. She said that singing is best done virtually, not while gathered.
 5. See additional note at the end of this report (not from Dr. Henry).
 3. Microphones are not a high-risk concern, just cleaning your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or with alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

4. It is really important to track any people who come together and all their contacts.

- tracking for 14 days

5. What about eating together?

- Definitely no buffets
- Contact your health officer for guidelines

For any food that is prepared in a public kitchen:

- physical distancing for kitchen workers,
- food preparation according to guidelines,
- only individually plated meals, where no utensils are exchanged between workers

6. Charitable giving - John Horgan will be giving attention to encouraging people to generously support charitable organisations in the next couple of weeks.

7. There will be government funding for anti-racism and anti-hate initiatives.

- There is acknowledgement of the fear that is behind this, and work will be done to address this fear.

8. Meeting in homes

- Meeting in small groups in homes with the same consistent 2 or 3 families being together is okay.
- It is a must to make sure that all other connections beyond this gathered group are limited and traceable.
- The reality is that children don't understand social distancing well.
 1. Dr. Henry said that we must keep our germs to ourselves, so, keeping the kids from touching each other will probably be the best that can be done.

9. Church washrooms can be used, with these guidelines:

- limiting people, one person at a time (depending on the size of the washroom - maybe 2 at a time)
- cleaning the high touch areas on a regular basis

10. There was a question about someone coming to an appropriately gathered event from outside the province.

Dr. Henry said that BC has no restrictions on inter-provincial travel.

11. Can two gatherings of no more than 50 people happen in two different areas of the same building?
 - Dr. Henry said, "Yes," but the two groups must have no interaction.
 - They must enter and leave through separate doors, and not interact outside the building.
 - Again, the reason for the separation and retaining the size of any single group is:
 - to limit the spread if someone who is infected participates in the gathering, and
 - to limit the number of people to be tracked when a spread of the virus occurs.
12. A good resource for congregational singing is from the Alberta government guidelines: <https://www.alberta.ca/restrictions-on-gatherings.aspx#singing>