

**Subject:** FW: An update from Dr. Robert Strang & Premier Stephen McNeil  
**From:** Darlene Jewers <revdarlenejewers@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 2020-06-18, 3:14 p.m.  
**To:** "parishioners@pictouanglicans.ca" <parishioners@pictouanglicans.ca>, David Harrison <djh@djharrison.ca>

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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**From:** [The Most Rev'd Ron Cutler](#)  
**Sent:** June 18, 2020 2:33 PM  
**To:** [The Rev'd Darlene Jewers](#)  
**Subject:** An update from Dr. Robert Strang & Premier Stephen McNeil

Further Announcements by Dr. Robert Strang & Premier Stephen McNeil



**Diocese of Nova Scotia and  
Prince Edward Island**

## Further Announcements by Dr. Robert Strang & Premier Stephen McNeil

June 18th, 2020

The following email was received this afternoon from Dr. Robert Strang and will be of particular interest to clergy in Nova Scotia. Prince Edward Island has announced that the limits on public gatherings will increase to 50 persons as of June 26.

Blessings,  
+Ron

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*Dear Religious/Faith Community leaders,*

*I wanted to make you aware of the announcement made earlier today that increases to 50 the number of people that can gather while maintaining 6 feet of physical distance, including for religious/faith services.*

*The "household bubble" is being replaced with the ability for groups of up to 10 people to get together without needing physical distance so within the total number of 50 you can have sub-groups of up to 10 people that can be in close contact. We are strongly encouraging people to limit the number of "close social" groups they have and ideally to only have one.*

*This is a first step to increase people's ability to worship together and I anticipate further significant steps in the very near future.*

*Please feel free to distribute this email to other religious/faith leaders that are not included on my distribution list.*

*Dr. Robert Strang*

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### COVID-19/HEALTH/WELLNESS--New Gathering Limits Announced

Premier Stephen McNeil and Dr. Robert Strang, chief medical officer of health for Nova Scotia, announced today, June 18, changes to gathering limits given Nova Scotia's low rates of COVID-19.

"We've now had well over a week with no new cases of COVID-19 and low rates for the last several weeks. That is thanks to Nova Scotians who have been following public health protocols," said Premier McNeil. "Our aim is to safely open as much of the economy and society as we can so that Nova Scotians and our business community can have a good summer. The core measures of social distancing and good hygiene that have kept case numbers low will stay in place."

There are now two different gathering limits - a larger one with physical distancing of two metres or six feet and a smaller one without. The new limits are effective June 19.

People can now gather in groups of up to 10 without physical distancing. People in a group are not required to be exclusive but they are encouraged to be. This is especially important for Nova Scotians who are more at-risk of complications from COVID-19. This change replaces the concept of family household bubbles.

People can now gather in groups of up to 50 with physical distancing. Members of the same household or a group of 10 can attend such gatherings together without physical distancing.

The larger gathering limit of 50 applies to social events, faith gatherings, sports and physical activity, weddings and funerals, and arts and culture events like theatre performances, dance recitals, festivals and concerts.

Businesses that are too small to ensure physical distancing can have no more than 10 people on their premises at a time.

Effective June 19, playgrounds can start reopening. Municipalities and other owners of playgrounds will need time to prepare them for reopening so Nova Scotians should not expect them to be open immediately.

"We're providing a new option for close social interaction because it's important for our well being, but everybody needs to make decisions that take into consideration the risks, their own circumstances, and how they help keep everyone safe," said Dr. Strang. "It's important that we all continue physical distancing as much as possible, good hand hygiene, cough etiquette, staying home if you're sick, and making informed decisions about the groups and activities we choose to join."

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