

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit – Covid 19 Health Unit Response Team

The Ministry of Health's document on [Religious Services, Rites or Ceremonies](#) suggests:

- Anyone singing or playing wind or brass instruments **should be 2 metres from anyone else (outside their household or social circle) and separated by an impermeable barrier.** *If an impermeable barrier is not used, anyone singing or playing wind or brass instruments should be separated from any other person (outside of the same household or social circle) to the greatest extent possible (but at least 2 metres).*

However, the Ministry's [Framework for Reopening Our Province: Stage 3](#) document suggests re: live performances:

- Performers must maintain physical distancing of two metres from every other person, except from other performers where necessary for purposes of the performance.
- **Plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier is required between the audience and singers as well as players of brass or wind instruments.**

As you see from the italicized area above, it is technically within the guidelines to distance at 2 metres or more from others when singing. However - Ministry guidelines also suggest that congregational and/or group singing is strongly discouraged, even with masks as singing may contribute to the spread of the virus.

Therefore the safest option for staff and congregants would be for **performers to be separated from anyone else by a minimum of two metres and separated by an impermeable barrier from the audience.** Especially given the increased vulnerabilities of congregants in many places of worship (over 70 years of age), this is the course of action that contributes most to their safety and a decreased risk of transmission.

Your strategy of installing impermeable barriers in the sanctuary is a wonderful solution.

Please feel welcome to share this response with your colleagues if you choose – and of course, always feel welcome to reach out for any clarifications or further questions – happy to help!

Do take good care and enjoy a terrific fall weekend!

Warm regards,
Lisa

COVID-19 Health Unit Response Team

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit | 345 Oak Street West | North Bay, Ontario P1B 2T2 | Canada

☎ 705-474-1400 | 1-800-563-2808

✉ covid-19.response@healthunit.ca  www.myhealthunit.ca

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)^{CA}