

Statement from Westwood Board of Elders

Re: Northern Health Authority Public Health Order of October 14, 2021

Situation:

[New localized PHO order](#) as of Thursday, October 14, 2021.

This current Order prohibits in-person corporate and group events. (Sections C and G).

Given our current Public Health Order (PHO) circumstances in the northern region, the Westwood Board of Elders and Pastoral Staff have made a difficult decision to close the building to in-person gatherings from now until November 19. The Board of Elders will convene on November 22 to reassess our situation at that time. Our rationale for this decision is primarily centred on the requirement to display proof-of-vaccination passports upon entry to any of our gatherings. As the body of Christ, we understand our responsibility to one another differently than this.

We recognize how demanding it is for all of us as we strive to love one another well during these difficult days. We do encourage Life Groups, Youth Ministry, and other ministry endeavours to take advantage of online platforms, or meet in person (homes, coffee shops, walks, etc.) under the guidance of the PHO. Our desire as a Board is to support our Pastoral and Administrative staff as best as able under these stressful times.

While our Board views the issue of vaccines and vaccinations as morally neutral, we believe that receiving vaccination for COVID-19 is a good thing and believe it is one way to demonstrate our love to one another in our challenging reality in the north.

If you, or someone you love, has not yet been vaccinated, you may make an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination either by registering online by visiting the provincial website at: www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/, or call [1-833-838-2323](tel:1-833-838-2323), or visit a Service BC office listed [here](#), and then book an appointment.

Flu season is also upon us. You may visit the following link to find the days and times for Northern Health Public Flu Clinics in your area: <https://immunizebc.ca/clinics/flu#5/55.279/-122.256>. This year, the provincial government is offering flu shots to all B.C. residents free of charge.

We value and invite your ongoing prayer for our Board, our staff, our church family, and our city as we daily fix our eyes on Jesus who remains on His throne.

On behalf of Westwood Board of Elders

Bob Gammer

Moderator