



Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all doing well. It's been good to see groups reopening over the past few months and getting back to meeting in person. We are now in phase 5 of the Nova Scotia reopening plan and there are some changes which affect our groups. All the information about phase 5 and the reopening plan is available online and I recommend that groups and members review it:

<https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/phase-five/>

Some of the highlights are:

- 1) The verification of vaccination status does not apply to our meetings. We are not required to verify if someone is vaccinated or not for them to attend a meeting.
- 2) There are no more gathering limits at our meetings, your meeting is once again simply limited by the fire code regulations for the meeting space.
- 3) Physical distancing is no longer required at our meetings. We no longer have to keep seating 6 feet apart. However that being said it might be a good idea to have some seats distanced for people who may not yet be comfortable in large groups.
- 4) Masks are still required at our meetings and required to be worn at all times.

There is nothing in the guidelines that would restrict the serving of coffee. It might be a good idea however should a group decide to make coffee available to have a service position of "coffee server" (I've seen this in England and India) to serve the coffee. This might help limit touching of shared items like sugar, milk and spoons and encourage fellow shipping.

These changes are positive moves forward, we do however have to keep all members in mind and make sure our meeting spaces feel safe and welcoming to everyone. All groups have done an amazing job of doing this so far and showing that a new way to live is possible even during a pandemic.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out.

Yours in service,
John B
Area Chairperson