

<http://www.coronavirusontario.ca/>

Ontario has declared a state of emergency amid the COVID-19 outbreak

- The order bans public events of more than 50 people, including parades, events and services within places of worship
- The state of emergency will be in effect until March 31; Doug Ford stresses this is not a provincial shut down

Why cancel church during a pandemic?

1. We are loving our neighbors by protecting our neighbors.
2. We are not being fearful. We are being responsible.
3. This is what love requires of us in this season.

### **Social distancing**

This means making changes in your everyday routines to minimize close contact with others, including:

- avoiding non-essential gatherings
- avoiding common greetings, such as handshakes
- avoiding crowded places such as concerts, arenas, conferences and festivals
- limiting contact with people at higher risk like older adults and those in poor health
- keeping a distance of at least 2 arms lengths (approximately 2 metres) from others, as much as possible
- keeping a distance of at least 2 arms-length (approximately 2 metres) from others

Dr. Eileen de Villa not issuing blanket bans this time, if she has to issue emergency orders, they would be backed up with the possibility of fines for businesses up to 25-thousand dollars per day under the Health Protection and Promotion Act if they didn't abide by the recommendation.