

GREEK CANADIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF HAMILTON AND COMMUNITY
PANAGIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ – ΚΟΙΜΗΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ
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Following is an excerpt from the City of Hamilton website
<https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-restrictions>

The province-wide Stay-at-Home Order begins on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 12:01 am and is expected to be in place for at least 42 days. *(May 20, 2021)...*

Faith-Based Gatherings, Weddings and Funerals

- Gathering limits for wedding services, funeral services and other religious services, rites or ceremonies, where physical distancing can be maintained are limited to a capacity of:
 - Indoors & outdoors: **10 PEOPLE**
- For greater clarity, this means that the maximum number of people indoors in a place of worship is 10 people including priests, ministers, musicians, altar-servers, etc.
- Face coverings or masks must be worn indoors.
- Virtual and drive-in religious services, rites or wedding/funeral ceremonies are permitted.
 - Each person attending must remain in a closed motor vehicle, except to use a washroom.
 - Motor vehicles must be positioned at least 2 metres from other vehicles.

Physical Distancing

- Maintain physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) between everyone in the place of worship, unless attending with members of the same household. Note: physical distancing of at least two metres is required in Hamilton during COVID-19 under [By-law 20-164](#)
- Avoid activities which require close contact (hand-shaking, hugging) or sharing items (drinking from chalice, passing collection basket, passing candle, kissing sacred items).

Enforcement and Fines

You may be asked to identify yourself to a provincial offences officer if they believe you have not complied with certain orders under the:

- [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#)
- [Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act](#)
- [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act](#)

If the officer finds you are not following the orders, you may be fined. The set fines are:

- \$750 for individuals who are not following an order
- \$1,000 for corporations that are not following an order
- \$1,000 for anyone who prevents an enforcement officer from exercising their powers or performing their duties to enforce the orders

Maximum fines are:

- \$100,000 for an individual
- \$500,000 for a director or officer of a corporation
- \$10 million for a corporation

Failure to follow the rules could also result in prosecution or even a year in jail.

