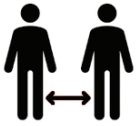
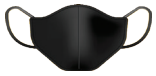


Southwest Region Conference COVID-19 Recommendations

(Updated: July 9, 2021)



Practice Social Distancing – a minimum of six feet between persons (who are not of the same household). To assist with this, use professionally displayed floor stickers (if necessary), pew markers (every other pew), and post signs, etc.



Face coverings – continue using masks that cover the nose and mouth for all worshippers while on church property. (While some states have relaxed face covering mandates, we still recommend their use.)



No potlucks, family style, or buffet meals. This does not include uncooked, or pre-packaged food for distribution. Please note that community food distribution is a much-needed ministry, particularly during this period. When engaging in this ministry, kindly execute in a safe manner.



Limited singing should be practiced. Refrain from responsive readings and group recitations. Coronavirus is an airborne virus. Congregational singing, responsive readings, and group recitations increase the risk of the Coronavirus.



Praise Teams, small singing groups, and musicians should be mindful of the following:

- Adequately social distance.
- Keep at least ten feet from the nearest pew/seat.
- Each singer/musician should have their own microphone.
- Disinfect each microphone after each use.



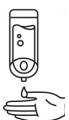
Refrain from handshakes, hugs, and “holy kisses” at the door. Avoid congregating in the lobby before and after worship. Remember, when you hug or kiss another person, you’re putting them in jeopardy, and they may be more susceptible than you are.



Temporarily disconnect all water fountains.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces before and after each use of your church space.



Sanitize before worship and between worship services. Develop a schedule of routine cleaning and disinfecting.



Provide hand sanitizing stations throughout your church property.

Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly. Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, etc. Please be mindful that air conditioning is not a ventilation system as it doesn’t circulate outside air.



Shorten worship experiences to minimize the amount of time continuously spent in confined indoor spaces (Recommended: Sabbath School and Divine Worship should not exceed 2½ hours).



Dismiss one row at a time to maintain social distancing.



Take attendance for possible contact tracing or other needed communication.



Post professionally displayed signs that promote protective measures in highly visible places (washing hands frequently, wearing face coverings, and practicing social distancing).



Pastors, officers, and worship leaders should model safe behavior at all times.



Children (ages 12 and under) should remain with parents and guardians during the worship experience, including when going to the restroom facilities. It should be remembered that children are highly asymptomatic, which could place seasoned adults at greater risk.



Temperature checks should be taken at the door, along with a brief screening questionnaire.



Communicate any changes to church members in advance enabling them to be clear on COVID-19 protocols.



Vulnerable persons (senior adults, persons with underlying health conditions) should continue to shelter at home.



Continue to provide on-line streamed services for those persons who remain at home.

“DEAR FRIEND, I PRAY THAT YOU MAY ENJOY GOOD HEALTH AND THAT ALL MAY GO WELL WITH YOU, EVEN AS YOUR SOUL IS GETTING ALONG WELL.”

3 JOHN 2, NIV