

## Proposed Guidelines and protocols for the Re-Entry of Hope Church Following COVID-19

The following guidelines include principles and direction from the State and CDC but may not answer every question. We are doing our best to re-start worship in a safe manner.

Two specific principles that you have heard much about in the last few months:

**The principle of “Social Distancing”** is emphasized as an effective method to provide less opportunity for the virus to contact another person. This involves keeping a distance of approximately 6 feet from another person. Our sanctuary seating has been arranged to accommodate this. Socializing outside is preferred, as it will decrease the chance of spreading the virus. Likewise, weather permitting we will keep doors and windows open to improve airflow.

**The second principle is a responsible, mindful change of an individual’s behavior.** The emphasis is on regular handwashing, not touching your face, staying home if you are not well, and covering a cough/sneeze.

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Since the church is a very social setting, we remind all attendees to follow these two principles while at Hope. In addition, while our church is in the re-entry phase it should be emphasized that each person or family unit needs to decide when they are comfortable to begin attending church. Some individuals at higher risk due to age and/or chronic conditions may choose to stay home and listen to the service on line for a longer period of time before attending in person.

The following is a list of recommendations for Hope Church:

- We will not have shared food or beverages, like the coffee shop or espresso machine. Also, serving Communion will be done in another manner, so that virus cannot be transmitted via surface and touching.
- We will reopen without Sunday School classes, children’s church and nursery. The nursery may be utilized by parents as needed, but will not be staffed. We will be prepared with manual activities available for children during the service.
- Masks: We are following the Minnesota Department of Health requiring all persons to wear a mask in public buildings.
- Temperature taking at the door: Businesses may choose this practice, but in a faith community attendees should be encouraged to stay home if they are not feeling well rather than taking temperatures at the door.
- Greeters will stand outside and open the door for folks as they enter the building. We caution against handshaking or hugging for an undetermined period of time.
- The use of hand sanitizers is recommended when basic handwashing is not an option, but good handwashing is the preferred practice. We do not plan to provide hand sanitizer, because of that rationale, and in addition it is difficult to find and costly to acquire presently. Instead, we encourage attendees to use handwashing and not touch their faces. Please bring your own hand sanitizer if you feel compelled.
- MN Dept. of Health offers no guidelines regarding the frequency of wiping down hard surfaces, or how it relates to the number of attendees. In addition to our normal custodial services, we will do our best to sanitize surfaces on Sunday morning before worshippers arrive, and wipe down the restroom sinks and door handles after Hope has completed our service – this is because two other congregations use our facility on Sunday, after we leave.