
Church Community Health and Safety Protection during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Building Preparations

1. COVID-19 Precautions information will be posted at all entry points and other common locations.
2. Water fountains will be disabled and identified as such.
3. Touchless soap dispensers, touchless paper dispensers, and touchless faucets will be installed in both bathrooms in the church building.
4. Portable free-standing touchless antiseptic dispensers will be made available on premises.
5. Antiseptic wipes will be available in the bathrooms for individuals to wipe clean any surface they may have used in the bathroom. Antiseptic wipes will also be available in the sanctuary platform to be used as needed, should microphones or surfaces would need to be shared.
6. Bibles, hymnals, cards, pencils etc. will be removed from the pews.
7. For those who cannot use the online AdventistGiving system, an offering box will be placed in the foyer for individuals to drop their donations. A stack of tithe envelopes will be made available adjacent to the box for individual use.
8. Extra cleaning and disinfecting before and after worship services.
9. Seating will be marked to allow social distancing. This will apply to both outdoors Service and indoor use of the sanctuary.
 - a. For outdoor Service, chairs will be spaced out 6 ft apart all around.
 - b. For indoor Service, pews will be marked. Families should try to sit together and practice social distancing with others sharing the pew.

Personal Safety – Administrative Safeguards

1. It is highly recommended to not handshake nor engage in other physical greetings.
2. Church bulletins will be electronic only.
3. Social distancing: Personal space, personal seating must be at least 6 feet apart. Please maintain 6-foot social distancing separation during intermission and walking through the building, walking outside.
4. Face coverings must be worn at all times, except when.
 - a. Eating or drinking.

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- b. When seating and you are at a 6ft distance from another person.
 - c. When walking outside and 6ft distance from another person is possible.
 - d. When there is a medical or safety condition preventing the individual in using a face covering.
 - i. Individuals with medical condition are kindly asked to worship remotely during this phase of reopening.
 - e. Children under 2 years old.
5. Believers must bring in their own water bottle. Do not share it with anyone.
 6. There will be no potlucks at this point. To avoid external contamination, we recommend everyone not to bring any food from home. Onsite kitchen will be closed.
 - a. At a subsequent reopening phase, potlucks will need to be organized in a server/host style. No self-service buffet services.
 7. Cover coughing or sneezing with a tissue, then immediately throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands. If no tissue is available, cough into your elbow. Please wash hands or use antiseptic to clean hands.
 8. Wash hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds or use an approved hand sanitizer.
 9. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands.
 10. Do not make others responsible for moving, unpacking and packing up your personal belongings.

Use of Outdoors for a Church Service – Administrative Safeguards

1. Believers are asked to please review and follow the Personal Safety Administrative Safeguards for the safety of all us. We are looking to resume church services and maintain a safe environment for all.
2. **Seating:** Seating for outdoors Service has been arranged and marked as such to allow social distancing. Please do not remove any markings or move chairs
 - a. For outdoor Service, chairs will be spaced out 6 ft apart all around.
3. **Offerings:** There will be no offering plate collection during any Service. Offering plates are not to be passed in an effort to limit the spread of germs. Believers are encouraged to use either of the following methods to make a donation:
 - a. Use of the online AdventistGiving system
 - b. Mail a check with their donation to the Church's street address.
4. **Social Distancing:** Please be mindful and respectful of others by maintaining at least a 6 ft distance from other families.

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5. **Face coverings:** Believers who plan to participate in an outdoor Service are asked to carry a face covering with them at all times, and use them based of the following:
- a. Face coverings must be worn at all times, except when.
 - i. When walking outside the building and 6ft distance from another person is possible.
 - ii. When there is a medical or safety condition preventing the individual in using a face covering.
 1. Individuals with medical condition are kindly asked to worship remotely during this phase of reopening, and not to participate in an outdoor Service.
 - iii. Children under 2 years old.
 - b. Please be mindful and considered of the safety of the people around you. Please respect that.
 - i. If you see an individual who is wearing a mask and you are approaching to talk with them, please put your mask on also.
 - ii. If you see an individual who is asking you or signaling to maintain a distance, please maintain a 6 ft distance.
 - iii. If you realize that while socializing with other people all of a sudden the space gets crowded and you are not at at least 6 ft distance from each other, please take out your mask and wear it.
 - c. We are asking that people bring their own favorite mask. The church has purchased some disposable face masks and will be made available to those who do not have one.

Use of the Indoor Facility – Administrative Safeguards

1. There will be designated entrances to the building and signs identifying the path of traffic direction in entering and exiting the building. We request the believers follow these directions.
2. There will be designated areas in the building taped for no access. Please do not enter areas that are cordoned off and limit your path of travel within the building.
3. Antiseptic wipes will be available in the bathrooms for individuals to wipe clean any surface they may have used in the bathroom.
4. Antiseptic wipes will be available in the sanctuary platform to be used as needed, should microphones or surfaces would need to be shared.

5. To avoid sharing germs, please clean up after yourself and periodically use a disinfectant wipe to clean surfaces you may have used. Antiseptic wipes will be available in the bathrooms and in the sanctuary.
6. Seating in the sanctuary for indoor Service has been arranged and marked as such to allow social distancing. Please do not remove any markings or move chairs
 - a. For indoor Service, pews will be marked with spaces for one-person, two-person (a couple), or four-person (family) seating arrangement.
7. There will be no offering plate collection during any Service. Offering plates are not to be passed in an effort to limit the spread of germs. Believers are encouraged to use either of the following methods to make a donation:
 - a. Use of the online AdventistGiving system
 - b. Mail a check with their donation to the Church's street address.
 - c. An offering box may be available in the foyer.
8. In-person meetings with 6-foot social distancing in place, shall be conducted whenever using teleconferencing technologies is ineffective.
 - a. In-person meetings shall not exceed 6 people and attendees must wear a face covering.

Use of Electronics – Administrative Safeguards

1. The AV department will be responsible to ensure any church electronics (e.g. Microphones) are properly handled and sanitized before and after each use. Believers are asked not to sanitize any such equipment but defer this responsibility to the AV personnel. Please request the AV personnel to perform any sanitization if the equipment were previously used by someone ask.
2. Any sponge coverings will be removed from the mics.
3. Mics, headsets, remote controls etc. will be sanitized before and after their use.
4. Microphones will be assigned to the individuals who need to use them during the Service.
 - a. Elders are asked to limit the number of platform participants to reduce the cleaning of mics, as there are limited mics available for use.
 - b. Should mics need to be shared with individuals, the metal enclosure of the mic should be cleaned with a disinfectant wipe. This task should be performed by the AV team only, who will ensure there is no damage to the electronics.
5. Do not pass a mic during a Sabbath School class from member to member. A mic will be assigned to the class teacher only.

Self-Assessment Questionnaire

for faith believers who consider attending onsite activities at the Conn. Valley Adventist Church

1. Have you, or anyone inside your residence, been sick or exhibiting flu like symptoms (including fever, shortness of breath, or cough) over the last 48 hours?
2. Have you, or anyone inside your residence, been quarantined due to potential COVID-19 exposure?
3. Have you, or anyone inside your residence, traveled outside of the country in the last 14 days?
4. Have you, or anyone inside your residence, been exposed to someone else who is currently being quarantined or treated for COVID-19?
5. Have you, or anyone inside your residence, been on a cruise ship in the last 14 days?

If the answer is YES to any of the above questions, we request that you continue participating in the church services remotely during this phase of re-opening.

Protocol Follow Through

1. The deacons will be monitoring that these safeguards are followed through and assisting believers to comply. This is done for the safety of all the believers, and to ensure the State of CT health guidelines and space use limitations are met.
2. If you feel that you are not willing to comply with the above safeguards, we kindly request that you continue worshiping remotely over the ZOOM and YouTube sessions, till all State restrictions are lifted and it's safe to return to a traditional lifestyle.