

Guidelines to Reopen the Rochester Seventh-day Adventist Church

The following is a phased plan to reopen the Rochester Seventh-day Adventist church for worship. This does not include Sabbath School, Vespers, or other types of meetings. Those will be addressed at a later time.

Successfully implementing these guidelines will determine the timeline of when we can accommodate more members for worship. Multiple services are not planned at this time as that presents other logistical challenges and requirements to maintain a safe facility while transitioning between services.

Phase 1:

Provide a safe place of worship for those most vulnerable (65 and older) and also for those that have been unable to join online services. Members of the same household are also welcome regardless of age.

Phase 2:

Gradually increase attendance. This may be based on a lower age range or may be based on preferences of those willing to adhere to these guidelines. Members of the same household are also welcome regardless of age.

Phase 3:

Full attendance allowed up to capacity allowed by CDC and state guidelines. Will need to coordinate weekly attendance as necessary to stay within state guidelines. This may require alternating between which households attend each week. We will have an area ready for possible overflow in case planned attendance exceeds the recommended capacity.

These plans and guidelines should be posted and made available to all attendees.

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Attendance:

1. If not feeling well, please stay home and watch online. All members of the same household should stay home if any one is displaying symptoms.
2. Please arrive early so seating can be paced without congestion. Since we will still be live streaming, the service will start promptly at 11am.
3. Wear a mask. This is to protect others in case you may be a carrier without symptoms.
4. Maintain physical distancing of 6 ft. Avoid all physical contact.
5. Enter in through the main doors under the drive-thru and proceed directly to the sanctuary so the foyer does not become congested.

Seating in sanctuary:

1. 1st row is reserved for worship leaders and their family.
2. Seating starts from the 3rd row of pews. Leave every other row empty.
3. Fill the sanctuary from front to back while maintaining 6 ft physical distance.
4. Members of the same household should sit together to make space available for other households.
5. Someone will direct you to seating.

Worship Service:

1. The worship service format will continue to follow the streamlined format used for live streaming.
2. Online giving is encouraged. An offering plate will not be passed, but one will be available as you leave the sanctuary.

After Worship:

1. After the service, those seated in back will exit first. Proceed directly to the parking lot so the foyer does not become congested.
2. Social interaction is allowed outside, but will not be permitted in foyer so that we do not create congested areas inside.
3. Maintaining physical distancing and wearing a mask is still recommended while outside.

Restroom facilities:

1. The main restrooms should have no more than 2 people in each one unless they are all from the same household.
2. The restrooms behind the baptistery are single occupancy.
3. Form a line in the hallway while maintaining 6ft distance.
4. A trash container will be placed by the door so a paper towel can be used to open the door and be disposed when leaving.

Drinking fountain:

1. Small cups will be available so touchless drinking station may be used.
2. Manually operated portion of drinking fountain should not be used.

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Worship Leaders:

1. If not feeling well, stay home.
2. All must wear a mask when entering and exiting building.
3. Masks will not be required when you are on the platform. Masks will be required after you leave the platform.
4. Do not sing, read scripture, or pray from the main floor as this puts you closer to those in attendance.
5. Piano and organ musicians have the option of removing masks when seated for playing.

Facilities:

1. All internal doors will be opened before people arrive and will remain open until the service is over.
2. All hymnals and Bibles from pew racks will be removed.
3. Overhead sanctuary fans and HVAC fans should not be on during the service.
4. After the service when all have left, tops of pews and door handles will be sanitized.

Supplies:

1. Extra masks should be available for those that forgot to bring one.
2. Hand sanitizer should be available in foyer.
3. Disinfectant wipes should be available for wiping down tops of pews and door handles after the service.