



*...loving God and worshipping Him as we impact our area
by teaching and discipling people for Jesus Christ.*

Dear Saints of Grace Covenant,

For a second time in a month, we had someone *innocently* attend our worship service after *unknowingly* being exposed to someone with the Coronavirus. So, the Session met last night to discuss our current COVID-19 guidelines for in-person worship. After a very good discussion, ***the session is of one mind in asking persons attending our in-person worship service to wear a mask while socializing before and after the service.*** We are also asking that we all, the session included, redouble our efforts in practicing social distancing during those socializing times.

So, our updated Phase 3 Guidelines and Procedures are as follows:

Phase 3 Attendees: All Members, Regular Attendees, & Visitors

- All persons who are healthy are invited to attend; however,
 - No one should attend if they have any apprehension or concerns about their safety
 - No one should attend if they are sick...***with any sickness***, but especially if they are ***running a fever***.
 - Children are to remain close to their parents at all times and especially if there is a need to use the restroom; there will be no use of the playground equipment
 - According to applicable [Executive Orders of Georgia](#), persons should consider remaining home if they:
 1. live in a nursing home or long-term care facility, including inpatient hospice, assisted living communities, personal care homes, intermediate care homes, community living arrangements, and community integration homes;
 2. have chronic lung disease;
 3. have moderate to severe asthma;
 4. have severe heart disease;
 5. are immunocompromised, including but not limited to those who
 - i. are being treated for cancer,
 - ii. smoke,
 - iii. have received bone marrow or organ transplants,
 - iv. have poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and/or

- v. have for a prolonged period used corticosteroids or other immune-weakening medication(s);
- 6. have class III or severe obesity; or
- 7. have been diagnosed with diabetes or liver disease, or have chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis.

Phase 3 Guidelines:

Social distancing must be followed at all times (i.e. maintain at least 6 feet of space from other people who do not live in your home), both inside the building and outside in the parking lot.

- Maintain social distancing in the parking lot
 - Please keep one empty parking space between cars (unless you are parking next to someone that lives in your home)
 - Please minimize socializing in the parking lot, but please practice social distancing if you do
- Maintain [social distancing](#) and [CDC hygiene practices](#) in the building
 - **Please wear a mask while socializing in the building prior to and following the worship service**
 - Exceptions:
 - Children under age 2
 - Anyone for whom a face covering would cause impairment due to an existing health condition or disability
 - Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance
 - [Feasibility and Adaptations](#)
 - We are limiting access to the Portico, Narthex, and Sanctuary (the kitchen, nursery, and classrooms will be unavailable)
 - We will have wipes and hand sanitizer available in the Narthex
 - We will not be offering coffee or food service, nor will the water fountains be available, however
 1. You are free to bring in your own beverage
 2. You are free to bring in your own water bottle
 - We will not be offering any Sunday School classes or nursery care
 - We are asking that the restrooms only be used in case of emergency; however
 1. If you need to use it, please do not have more than 2 adults in the restroom at the same time
 2. Children must be accompanied by an adult
 3. Please remember to practice the hygiene prescribed by the CDC and the State of Georgia by washing your hands
 4. Please use a paper towel to open the bathroom door
 5. There will be a trash can outside the bathroom doors for disposing those paper towels
- Maintain social distancing and CDC hygiene practices in the sanctuary

- We will practice controlled seating
 1. The rows have been adjusted to being 6 feet apart
 2. Families need to sit together
 3. Please keep three empty chairs between different families on same row
- We will not be providing bulletins or hymnals, the entire service will be on the screens; however
 1. You are free to bring your own hymnal if you have one, but please take it with you when you leave
 2. You are free to bring a hard copy of the liturgy that you have printed out at home
- We will not be passing the collection plates, but you can drop off an offering in the designated containers by the sanctuary doors
- We will not be administering any worship elements that are inappropriate for a partial-body service

Phase 3 Procedures:

- Continue to live stream the services for those who are still sheltering in place
- Provide at least one doorman wearing gloves to be the sole operator/s of the entry doors to the Narthex for both entering and exiting
- Provide at least one doorman wearing gloves to be the sole operator/s of the doors to the Sanctuary for both entering and exiting
- Have one person wearing gloves designated to go around and wipe things down periodically as people are coming and going
- Deacons oversee a general cleaning/disinfecting of the facilities after the service

Please continue to pray for the Session and Diaconate as we try to lead our congregation well during the pandemic; pray also for the sick, those at high risk, the medical professionals providing care, researchers developing a vaccine, and governing officials leading us.

If you need any assistance, especially if you need something but don't want to risk going into a public space, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor David, one of the elders, or one of the deacons. We are ready to serve you and help during this time of uncertainty.

May the God of all comfort, who comforts us in our affliction, give you grace during this present distress.

On behalf of the Session,



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