

Roots Community Church

COVID-19 Guidelines



WWW.ROOTSCHURCH.NET

These guidelines are derived from the CDC Guidelines and are adapted for our context at Roots Community Church. Our goal is to ensure as much as possible, the health and safety of all of us who gather - members and visitors alike - as this is of paramount importance. Furthermore, we do this out of obedience not only to the local, state and national authorities as commanded by Scripture (Romans 13, 1 Peter 2:13-17) but also to our Lord. The law of love is governing these guidelines and our commitment to them. We believe this to be a biblical posture, central to the gospel itself as we look to the life and ministry of Christ as our supreme example. Jesus laid aside his heavenly rights to pursue a people undeserving. He laid aside some of those rights for a higher aim; the love of redemption of his own.

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...”

Philippians 2:4-5

It is in this spirit that we humbly ask all who gather with us to abide by these guidelines for our mutual benefit.

Pastor Dylan and Pastor Hans

Visit www.rootschurch.net/covid19-info for any updates to this booklet

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Personal Prevention /Mitigation Strategies

What you can do as an individual to help prevent possible viral transmission:

1 Stay home if sick

If you are experiencing any type of “sick” symptoms, please stay at home.

- Common presenting symptoms are fever, cough, sore throat, vomiting and diarrhea.
- COVID-19 infection presents differently in different people. For example, a small subset of people only experience gastrointestinal symptoms (ie. diarrhea)

2 Stay home if exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection within the past two weeks

- If you are unsure whether they are sick with COVID-19, please stay home anyways.

3 Washing hands

- Recommended after touching others, any publicly used surface, or before and after eating.
- Wash with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Can substitute hand sanitizer if available (must contain at least 60% alcohol to be effective).

4 Avoid direct contact with other members (hand shaking or hugging)

- Consider nodding or foot tapping.

5 Avoid indirect contact through sharing or passing items

- If necessary, be sure to wash/sanitize the item and your hands.

6 Maintain social distancing of 6ft before, during, and after service

- Attendees who do not live in the same household should remain at least six feet apart

7 Wearing face coverings - not mandatory but highly recommended as a means of protecting others from your own respiratory secretions/droplets

- Not recommended for those who have difficulty breathing while wearing face covering
- Face covering should completely cover the mouth and the nose
- Avoid touching your face whenever possible. Be aware of unclean hands while adjusting your mask. Users should ideally sanitize or wash hands every time after touching or adjusting their mask

8 Gloves should only be worn for those who are cleaning/disinfecting surfaces

- Gloves likely provide false reassurance of clean hands and are not necessarily better than frequently washing/sanitizing hands.

Corporate Prevention

The following are ways in which we as a church are modifying our routines to prevent viral transmission:

1 Disinfecting surfaces

- Disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces will be done at least once per gathering

2 Methods of monetary giving will be modified

- Online giving is preferred at this time

3 Limit any shared items or foods

- Postponing use of a book table.
- Postponing use of coffee/food tables.
- Attendees can bring their own food/coffee, though eating/drinking would ideally occur before or after gathering as eating/drinking increases the chance of transmitting droplets between hands/objects and mouth.

4 Postpone communion. Only when able to safely partake communion we may employ the following steps:

- If taking communion, sanitize hands before and after taking communion.
- If taking communion, we will use prepared elements and disposable cups for juice/wine so these can easily be thrown away without others handling them.

5 Ensure adequate means of providing up to date information to church attendees

- Relevant changes to guidelines will be announced through Realm and during each service.

Response

If someone presents with COVID-19 symptoms while at church OR someone tests positive for COVID-19 after attending a church gathering:

- 1 Isolate individuals immediately. If at church they should return home or be transported to a doctor or the ER if necessary**
 - If transported, the individual as well as the person driving should wear masks, and roll down the windows to increase ventilation in the vehicle (from CDC website).

- 2 Alert Orange County Health Agency (800) 564-8448**

- 3 Coordinate with OC Health Agency for further steps, like possible contact tracing.**

- 4 Clean/disinfect area**

- 5 Consider postponing gatherings to limit further spread in the community**

**Roots
Community
Church
Children's
Ministry
COVID 19
Policies and
Procedures**

Roots Community Church continues to exist to celebrate the glory of God through lives transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, our desire to see children fall in love with Jesus Christ and treasure Him above all things continues during this time of COVID-19. The safety of the children and the safety of our volunteers and families is a top priority of our elders and staff. We have created this subcategory of our policies and procedures form to inform you of how we will be caring, protecting and serving our children, our families and our volunteers during this time.

Information on COVID-19 in children:

Information about COVID-19 in children is somewhat limited, but the information that is available suggests that children with confirmed COVID-19 generally had mild symptoms. Person-to-person spread from or to children, as among adults, is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely also play a role in the spread of COVID-19.

Here are the preventative ways in which we will operate our Children's Ministry on Sundays:

Volunteers:

- Stay home if sick. This means if you are experiencing any type of “sick” symptoms. Common presenting symptoms are:

Fever, cough, sore throat, vomiting and diarrhea

Note: You do not have to have fever or respiratory symptoms to be infected. Some people only experience gastrointestinal symptoms (ie. diarrhea).

- Volunteers should wear face coverings while serving in Children’s Ministry.

****Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies and children under age two because of the danger of suffocation.****

Social Distancing Strategies:

- If possible during story time make sure children are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart.
- Hand sanitizer should be put on each child before entering the Children’s Ministry as well as on their way out.
- Limit direct contact with parents and children as much as possible.
- Same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child.

Screen Children Upon Arrival (if possible):

- Persons who have a fever of 100.4 F (38.0 C) or above or other signs of illness should not be admitted to the facility.
- Parents/guardians need to take their child's temperature before coming to church.
- Ask the parent/guardian to confirm that the child does not have fever, shortness of breath or cough.
- Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- Take the children's temperature

Clean and Disinfect:

- Routinely clean, sanitize and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games. This may also include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily such as doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, toilet training potties, desks, chairs, changing tables, cubbies, and playground structures.

Clean and Sanitize Toys:

- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves.
- Set aside toys that need to be cleaned. Place in a separate container marked for "soiled toys." These toys will be washed for the following Sunday.

- Have enough toys so that the toys can be rotated through cleanings.
- Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.

Diapering:

- When diapering a child, wash your hands and wash the child's hands before you begin, and wear gloves.
- Clean the child
- Remove trash (soiled diaper and wipes)
- Replace diaper
- Wash child's hands
- Clean up diapering station
- Wash hands
- After diapering, wash your hands (even if you were wearing gloves) and disinfect the diapering area.

Comforting and Holding a Child:

- Volunteers should wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by the child's secretions.

Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior:

- All children, parents and volunteers should engage in hand hygiene at the following times:
- Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after preparing food or drinks
- Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children
- Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
- Before and after diapering
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After playing outdoors or in sand
- After handling garbage

Food Preparation and Meal Service:

- All sealed snacks will be passed out to each child on their way out of the classroom after service. No food or drinks will be served during class for now.

Vulnerable/High Risk Groups:

- If you are age 65 or older, or with serious underlying health conditions, we encourage you to talk to your healthcare provider to assess the risk and to determine if you should serve in the Children's Ministry at this time. We are grateful for your desire to serve, but again, your health along with the childrens' and the other volunteers is our top priority.
- If there are children with underlying health conditions, talk to their parents about their risk and decide if they should stay in main service with the parents or wear a mask in class.

Response

- If a volunteer or child presents with COVID-19 symptoms while in class OR someone tests positive for COVID-19
- Isolate individuals immediately and call their parents so that they can take them home or if needed take them to the ER.
- Clean/disinfect area
- Alert those who may have been exposed - Monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidelines if symptoms develop