

Way of Grace Faith Family,

In spite of the many challenges we've faced, and continue to face, we sincerely pray this note finds you "strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy" (Colossians 1:11).

I think it's safe to say that all of us are longing for a return to some kind of normalcy, especially in terms of in-person fellowship and worship with God's people. But even though recently developed vaccines are a great sign in terms of the pandemic's eventual end, we realistically have many more months before every member of our faith family will be able to gather again in person.

With that fact in mind (and recognizing 'covid apathy' is a real temptation for all of us), the Way of Grace Elders have drafted fuller guidelines in regard to in-person worship at our new school site, *Painted Desert Montessori Academy*. As more and more of you begin to transition back to in-person attendance in the coming weeks and months, it's important each of us understands and is committed to these guidelines. This is not only to avoid further transmission of the virus, but also to reassure one another that all of us are doing our best to care for one another, as well as the people (especially the most vulnerable) in our individual circles.

Would you please take a few minutes to read over the revised guidelines printed on the back of this letter? Even if you are not planning to come in person anytime soon, please read over the guidelines, since some points apply to both *in-person* and *online* attenders (plus, these guidelines will help you know what to expect when you do return). As always, be sure to contact us if you have any questions.

While our hope is that these fuller guidelines will reassure those who would like to return soon, we respect the fact this decision involves different factors for different people. We will, of course, continue to live-stream every Sunday morning, as well as offer additional online opportunities for growth and encouragement. Please know that we look forward to seeing you whenever you're ready to return, and that your health, the health of those around you, and the health of our community is important to us.

Committed with you to His call to love one another,

*Pastor Bryce*

(on behalf of Elder Steve, and Elder Christian)

# Way of Grace PANDEMIC GUIDELINES (effective February 1, 2021)

## Part A: SO YOU DON'T TEST POSITIVE for COVID-19...

1. Don't attend in person if you do not feel well (esp. fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue, etc.) or have been exposed in the last 14 days to someone who tested positive for the virus.
2. If you attend, please wear a well-fitted mask over your mouth and nose at all times while on campus. *This starts in the parking lot* (if you forget, no worries; a greeter at our main gate will remind you to 'mask up' and can even provide a mask if you forget yours).
3. Please use the hand sanitizer station when you first enter the building.
4. Please avoid physical contact with others (e.g., hugs, handshakes), maintaining at least six feet of space at all times (chairs will be spaced appropriately; please do not change this spacing).
5. Is that mask bothering you? Please feel free to step outside (a safe distance from others), and lower your mask for a 'breather'.

## Part B: IF YOU DO TEST POSITIVE for COVID-19...

1. Please communicate that result with any individuals with whom you *directly interacted*, in-person, up to seven days prior to your first symptoms.
2. Please do not attend our in-person Gathering until *the third Sunday after* your first symptoms (assuming you are symptom-free, including 24 hours without a fever).

## Part C: IF YOU HEAR ABOUT or WERE EXPOSED TO/LIVE WITH SOMEONE WHO TESTED POSITIVE for COVID-19...

1. (Hear about:) Please do not share this private, medical information without the express permission of the person who tested positive.
2. (Were exposed to/live with:) Please do not attend our in-person Gathering until *the third Sunday after* your first exposure to the infected individual (assuming you are symptom-free and have tested negative for the virus).

**EXAMPLE:** Mary worships at Way of Grace on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup>. She tests positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mary should contact those with whom she *directly interacted* at church to let them know she tested positive (those whom she contacts should not share this information without her permission). If Mary is symptom free (Part B, #2), she can return to in-person worship on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. If her husband John is first exposed to her when he returns from a business trip on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup>, he (if symptom-free and has tested negative) can also return to in-person worship on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. If he, for example, returned from his trip on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup>, John (if symptom-free and has tested negative) should return on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>.