

Christ Lutheran Church

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Effective Date: July 23, 2020

General Overview

Christ Lutheran Church has established a COVID-19 SMART Team to meet regularly and make recommendations for the safe use of the church and its activities and services. We recognize that the safety of our members, staff and the community is the highest priority and strive to make these recommendations in accordance to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines and recommendations, CDC guidelines, and other health expert guidance. We also recognize that the information and guidance is fluid and changing as we learn more about person-to-person COVID transmission, safe hygiene practices, and environmental controls.

CLC will strive to maintain a “minimal-touch” and safe environment for all users, while allowing for appropriate use of our spaces for certain approved activities. This means that all common surfaces, such as handrails, counters, doorknobs, etc. should be minimally touched. The church staff and membership are reminded that we have a “Social Contract” responsibility to be safe and conduct ourselves in a safe manner – especially out of respect for each other. This means knowing one’s own personal history and risks, trust in self-screening with appropriate social restraint with concern about health or exposure.

The MDH guidelines allows for up to 50% capacity / 250 people maximum capacity for religious organizations. As of July 25, 2020, people in Minnesota are required to wear a face mask or covering in all public indoor spaces when social distancing cannot be maintained (MN Executive Order 20-81.)

This preparedness plan will be regularly reviewed and updated as new evidence, guidelines, MDH rules and recommendations are developed.

If there are questions, please contact:

Occupancy

In general, a maximum of 50 people will be allowed in the church at one time for specific planned and approved events and services.

Within the church are defined spaces (Sanctuary, atrium, Fireside room, basement, youth room, etc.) that may be used for specific purposes. Each of the allowed spaces has a limit of 10 people unless prior planning and approval is obtained from the church staff.

Anyone (church staff, church members or guests) with COVID symptoms may not enter the church or will be sent home immediately:

- **COVID symptoms can include (but are not limited to) fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell.**
- **Persons in close contact with a household member with COVID 19 are not allowed in the church until their quarantine period is finished.**

All fire doors and other fire safety functions are to be left intact. There is to be no propping open of fire doors or other interventions that mitigates their proper functioning.

Safe Distance Practices

- **Staff and visitors are to ensure at least 6 feet of distancing in work areas, workstations, or shared offices. 6 feet distancing is to be maintained for use of the rooms and other spaces within the church by visitors and guests. If this is not possible (for communion, certain teaching activities, etc.), a face mask or covering is required.**
- **Families and persons living in the same household may be in closer proximity to each other for certain activities like church services or meetings.**
- **Flexible scheduling of services, meetings or scheduled church spaces is desired to reduce possible transmission and accidental COVID contacts.**

- The North (parking lot) entrance door is to be used for most persons entering the church. All persons entering the church will be required to sign the visitors contact information sheet maintained at the North entrance.
- Those exiting the church should use another door (East or West doors) if any crowding exists at the North door.
- Students (for music lessons, etc.) are to be escorted upon arrival to their room and be escorted to the exit by the teacher or staff person.
- No parents or others may wait within the church for their children during lessons or meetings.
- Only 1 person is allowed in a restroom at a time unless a parent is accompanying a child for assistance or safety.
- No food or beverage service is allowed within the church at this time.

Masks and Personal Hygiene

- Face masks or coverings are required when entering the church and during services with others in attendance.
- The church will provide disposable face masks at the entrance door.
- For church office and other staff, once in a workspace where appropriate distancing can be maintained, the mask or covering may be removed.
- Masks and face coverings are required for all church visitors during any service, other meetings and group gatherings.
- Hand sanitizers are available at the entrance and in key locations within the church. Hands should be sanitized upon entering the church.
- Hand washing is to be done after use of the restrooms, touching surfaces, and after touching one's face, sneezing or coughing. Regular and frequent hand washing, and sanitizing is recommended.
- Water fountain use is discouraged, but the fountains are not turned off. Drinking cups should be used if possible.
- Restroom use is restricted to 1 person at a time.

Drop off and delivery practices

- Food and other donations should be dropped off at the West entrance alcove.
- Other deliveries should be made in the church office with face masks or coverings for both the staff and delivery person, 6-foot distancing, and minimal interaction.
- Church housekeeping staff will routinely clean all common areas, restrooms, shared spaces after use and according to an established schedule. This includes bathrooms, doorknobs, counter tops, railings, and handles, ends and tops of pews.
- Light switches and circuit breakers are not to be sanitized with liquid or alcohol-based agents.

- Teachers and staff are to clean their room and other items that may have been used (music stands, chairs, etc.) after each student's use or after each lesson.
- The church will provide an appropriate cleaning agent for use by teachers and other room users.
- Personal equipment, items used in church services, microphones and other devices should not be shared and should be disinfected after each use.
- According to the MDH, books, hymnals and religious texts used by people at one service do not pose a significant risk in spreading COVID 19 to the next service. However, they will be removed from the pews prior to the first use of the sanctuary. Additional guidance will address the replace and cleaning of the hymnals and religious texts as more evidence and MDH and CDC guidance is released.

Other Uses

Other possible users of the church will be reviewed by the COVID Smart Team as needed to help define their specific uses and rules. Current users and reviews have been completed for Bible studies, music teachers, Alcoholic Anonymous, and the Lunch Bunch.

References:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/safefaitth.pdf>

Amended;

7/29/20

7/30/20