

# Full Gospel Church

## Covid-19 Preparedness Plan as of 5/27/20

This plan is in response to the State of Minnesota's requirement to have a plan for reopening due to the Covid-19 epidemic. This plan is a summary of the main points applicable to Full Gospel Church from the ***"Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening: Faith-based communities, places of worship, weddings, and funerals"***

*Gathering so that we might worship together as God's people is an essential part of the way we love God. Ensuring that we keep each other safe while doing so, is how we can love His people. Let us ensure that we are choosing others over our own wants and desires as we begin to physically meet in our church building again. **"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."** John 15:13*

1. Based on the guidance from Governor Walz and the State, we are able to open for worship services at a limited capacity starting May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
2. Although we are able to worship together again, please realize that doing so is not without some risk. **YOU SHOULD NOT ATTEND SERVICES IF...**
  - a. You are sick, show any symptoms of covid-19 , you have been recently exposed to covid-19, or have exposure to a family member that has covid-19.
  - b. You are a person of a vulnerable population.
  - c. You and your family cannot abide by the rules that Full Gospel Church will be mandating.
  - d. If you are uncertain if it is safe to attend. If you do not feel comfortable attending, please stay safe and only participate in what you feel comfortable doing! The livestream on Facebook will still be happening, feel free to worship with us this way!
  - e. You don't think your children will sit though church reasonably behaved. ( We expect some distraction, and frankly we welcome it. But to ask toddler to sit for an hour during the service may not be a realistic expectation for him or her. Please feel free to participate in the Facebook livestream. But we will have a couple of rooms available for parents who need to temporarily step out of the service with their children. No nursery services will be available. No kids church will be available.
3. This limited capacity be at 25% of our building occupancy as directed by the Fire Marshall.

- a. The current capacity of Full Gospel Church's sanctuary is 208 people. 160 for the main level sanctuary and 48 for the balcony.
  - b. Based on these numbers our 25% capacity will be at 52 people. (40 in the sanctuary and 12 in the balcony).
4. What are we doing to keep you safe?
- a. Requesting that attendees abide by the rules listed in #5.
  - b. All staff, volunteers, and leadership will be trained regarding Covid-19 exposure, as well as applicable policies, procedures, practices, and protocols.
  - c. Blocking off every other pew so that we might have safe social distancing while in the sanctuary and balcony.
  - d. Cleaning and disinfecting of all areas that people will be entering, using and congregating. To include regular wipe downs of doorknobs, bath sink faucets, and other items that may be touched by multiple people. This will be done, at a minimum, between each service.
  - e. Asking those using restrooms to use downstairs bathrooms as well as upstairs to help limit traffic into a congested area.
  - f. All Bibles and Hymnals have been removed from the pews and giving envelopes and prayer cards will be replaced new each week with sterile replacements.
  - g. The community water fountain located in the foyer will not be available for use at this time.
  - h. We have posted signs and messaging that if attendees or volunteers do not feel well, or have any symptoms compatible with covid-19 they should stay home.
  - i. We will have extra masks available for use, but you are encouraged to bring your own. Face coverings are not a substitute for physical distance of 6ft.
  - j. We will not be passing an offering plate. We will have a vessel to collect offering at the rear of the sanctuary that will not require physical touch.
  - k. Communion will be conducted with individual self-contained sterile elements. These will be handed out in a manor to help ensure social distancing and safe, touch-free, distribution. (HOW SHOULD WE DO THIS? Hand out as people walk in?)
  - l. Ushers will release rows in an orderly fashion to ensure proper social distancing.
  - m. We will continue Livestream services on Facebook for the foreseeable future for those who are unable to attend but still wish to worship with us.
5. Here is a list of requests we have to keep our people safe.
- a. **Social distancing of 6 ft** will be required between each family. Only those who live together, are able to sit together.
  - b. **You may wear a mask.** Especially if you are higher risk, we recommend that you do. However, wearing of **masks will not be mandatory** for the remainder of the congregation. There are conflicting reports on the use of masks and their

benefits, so we have decided that we will allow you to personally make that decision.

- c. **No physical contact** such as hugs & handshakes.
  - d. If you start to display any symptoms (such as coughing) that could be viewed as Covid related, please remove yourself from the gathering immediately. We realize that many have seasonal allergies, throat tickles, etc. Once the episode is complete, you may return to your seat. Please be respectful of others that are in the worship service. You might know that you don't have covid... but not everyone else does.
  - e. Please **use hand sanitizer** upon entering and exiting the church. Stations will be set up at each door.
  - f. **Wash your hands and cover your cough!**
  - g. **RESTROOMS-** We would like to reserve the main level restroom for those who have limited mobility and our elders. If you are healthy, can traverse stairs easily, then please use the restrooms in the basement. This will limit the number of people entering the main level restrooms and hopefully the potential spread of germs.
  - h. Please self-sterilize restroom knobs and faucets using cleaning wipes located in the bathrooms, before and after you touch something. We encourage the use of these wipes and also the use of paper towel to touch things rather than with bare hands.
  - i. **We will be singing.** Singing to God is an essential part of our worship. Those who may be uncomfortable with that may sit in the lobby, wear a mask, or choose to participate in the Facebook Livestream service.
  - j. **Ushers and volunteers will be masked** as they are likely to come into closer contact than 6ft.
  - k. No children's church or nursery will be conducted for at least the next 4 weeks, or until another policy can be approved by the church board.
  - l. When moving and traversing through the hallways, church foyer/lobby, stairwells, practice safe social distance practices.
  - m. **Parents-** Please keep children within reach and assist them in following all of the rules outlined in this document.
6. The next board meeting will likely be the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June. At that time the church board will review our preparedness plan and make changes as appropriate and as needed.