



COVID-19

Plan for Re-entry

PREPARATION PROTOCOL PRIOR TO GATHERING:

1. Monitor the Advice of Experts in COVID-19:

Prior to gathering, the Executive Council will rely on the advice of the CDC, along with state and local leaders when it comes to the progression of the virus in Pella, Marion County and Iowa. However, the leaders will not bind their decision solely to this advice, but also on what we deem safe for Connect Church members and the broader Pella community.

2. Continue to Communicate General Safety

Precautions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your face
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

3. Communicate Social Distancing Requirements:

We will communicate prior to meeting that when we do gather the requirements of social distancing MUST be maintained inside the Connect Church facility, which means maintaining at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people. If this is not maintained by the congregation, the leadership has the authority to deem it not wise to gather in the future until the risk of COVID-19 has diminished.

Communicate the need for people to respect these regulations for the sake of OTHERS who are at risk or who simply may not be comfortable breaking the social distancing guidelines.

4. Encourage At-Risk People to Stay Home:

According to the CDC, people who fall into the high-risk demographics should avoid mass gatherings. We will encourage the same recommendation while making

sure they have a means to still worship on the radio or online.

Both the CDC and the Marion County Health Department have stated that those at-risk are: 1) Those with pre-existing medical conditions and 2) Those 65 years and older.

5. Develop & Establish Video Capability:

Even though Live-stream is NOT a replacement of in-person gatherings, we will make sure that we have an online presence during this transition for both those who are encouraged to stay home and for those we have connected to over the past several weeks.

6. Ensure Proper Cleaning of the Facility is Taking Place:

To ensure that our custodians are using EPA-approved disinfectants recommended by the CDC to use to reduce the risk of contacting COVID-19 from common touch points in the facility.¹

To ensure that custodians are aware of the expectations for cleaning, such as high-touch points (where they are and when to clean) so that we maintain high standards of cleanliness during this time in our facility.

PROTOCOL FOR WHEN WE GATHER:

1. Entry:

NOTE:

The 2 Double Doors (on Liberty St. & Alley) will be opened but the Nursery door and Pastor's Office doors will remain locked.

- Doors will be either hooked open or if not feasible due to weather, greeters will be posted outside each unlocked door (one greeter per entrance) prior to the worship service. Requirements for the greeters are:
 - Masks must be worn.
 - Social distancing requirements upheld.
- Communicate to the congregation that when entering the church to socially distance. Patience will be needed when multiple people/family groups are entering the same doorway.

2. Narthex:

The following changes will take place:

- No paper materials will be distributed, such as Orders of Worship.
- No gatherings in the narthex, which means moving directly to the sanctuary prior to the

¹<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectant-s-use-against-sars-cov-2>

service or directly outside following the service.

- No access to mailboxes. The narthex will be blocked off to discourage group gatherings. Distribution of the newsletter will continue through the website, emails and postal mail.

3. Sanctuary:

The following changes will take place:

- No mutual greetings.
- No communion until deemed safe or an innovative practice of communion is determined safe for all people.
- No nursery provided. We welcome children into worship and do not expect or desire adult-level silence from them.
- No passing an offering plate. We continue to encourage online giving. We will also provide “boxes” that a physical offering can be dropped off at as people exit.
- No passing microphones.
- No pre-service coffee or after-service fellowship times
- Marking off pews for social distancing. To move toward closer yet safe fellowship in worship, the south side of the sanctuary will remain marked off every third pew, while the north side will be marked off every other pew for those who feel comfortable sitting closer together. Non-family people sitting in the same pew are asked to maintain 6 feet spacing.
- Remove all Bibles and hymn books so that they do not become high touchpoints.
- Masks will be provided for volunteers such as sound and projection.
- Provide hand sanitizer by doors into the sanctuary.

Bathrooms:

Bathrooms will be made available with the following regulations:

- One person in a bathroom at a time.
- Waiting patiently while the bathroom is in use allowing proper distance for someone to exit.
- Practice 20 second hand washing.

4. Exit:

The following changes will take place:

- Communicating to those who gather that the back pews will exit first and for people to patiently practice social distancing as people leave.
- Doors will be either hooked open or if not feasible due to weather, those who were greeters will be posted outside each unlocked

door (one greeter per entrance) to hold the doors open. Requirements for these individuals will be the same as entry:

- Masks must be worn.
- Social distancing requirements upheld.

5. Post-Service:

- Clean microphones, headphones, computers, laptops, soundboards, etc. after every use. Keep a record of when each item was cleaned. DO NOT use water. Rubbing alcohol or alcohol-based cleaners are best.

Final Thoughts:

We understand that this will be awkward and at times uncomfortable for us all. This will also demand sacrifice by each of us since the re-opening of Connect Church will not be the same as prior to COVID-19. Since there are no regulations for wearing masks or gloves, we are making no such requirements. We simply ask you to gather in a manner that makes you most comfortable and that also respects how others gather. That being said, HOW we worship does not affect our response to the WHO of worship. We will continue to worship the greatness of Jesus with the prayer that others will stand in awe of Him with us. Therefore, as we gather, may the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) be present in us so God's goodness and glory is seen through us!