

Policy for Controlling the Spread of Infectious Disease Fayette Presbyterian Church

It is the desire of this church to meet the spiritual needs of each individual who comes to the church seeking worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. While all persons who wish to participate will be welcomed, we have instituted precautions as established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to minimize the risk of spread of communicable diseases.

The Session will decide when it believes there is a high risk of spreading an infectious disease. At that time, the following precautions will be taken:

Participation.

1. The congregation will be informed that if a member/visitor has underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of an infectious disease causing more severe symptoms, then they are encouraged to not participate in church activities.
2. The congregation will be informed that if a member/visitor has symptoms of sickness (coughing, fever, etc), they should stay home.
3. If a member/visitor showing symptoms arrives to participate, they will be asked to either return home or wear a mask, sanitize their hands, and avoid close proximity to others.
4. If a person chooses to participate, they do so knowing the risk and assume the full responsibility if they contract the disease. For everyone who participates, there are no exceptions to this policy. The procedures in place must be used by all.

Facility.

1. Frequently touched surfaces (door handles, push plates, handles, faucets, handrails, etc) will be sanitized after any gathering or group activity, in the areas where that event occurred.
2. Where possible, doors should be propped open to prevent multiple people from touching the same surfaces.
3. Water fountains will be closed.

Worship.

1. Virtual worship will be provided for those who are sick or vulnerable and cannot participate in in-person activities.
2. Hand Sanitizing stations will be provided at the doors into the sanctuary.
3. Greeting / Passing the Peace time will be suspended and members will be encouraged to avoid physical contact.
4. The offering will be collected using a no-touch method such as ushers holding onto trays (instead of members passing them), a collection basket/box at the doors, or electronic giving.
5. Communion will be served by members coming forward to receive a piece of bread and a pre-poured cup from an elder who has sanitized their hands.
6. During coffee fellowship, coffee and donuts will only be handled by servers. There will be no self-service.
7. During a COVID or similar epidemic, additional precautions will be taken including limiting worship to no more than 50 members, all leaders and members wearing masks,

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spreading seating to create social distancing, postponing any singing, completely postponing communion, limiting the length of the service to approximately 30 minutes, and discouraging any indoor social interaction. A careful attendance roll will be maintained for contact-tracing if necessary.

Group Activities.

1. When groups gather for study or fellowship, they should monitor their members for symptoms, meet only in rooms where they can maintain social distance, and sanitize the surfaces (chairs, table tops, door handles, etc) in any areas that they used.
2. Groups that can conduct their activity/business through a Zoom meeting or electronic means should do so. Particularly the Session, committees, PW Steering Team, etc should use alternate means if possible.
3. During a COVID or similar epidemic, the Session may decide to suspend the meetings of all groups at the church. If not, groups should plan to meet either outdoors or in spaces where they can maintain proper social distancing for whatever size group they have. Also, a roll of who attended each activity/meeting must be maintained for contact-tracing if necessary.

Children Activities.

1. Children who show signs of a fever or runny nose will not be admitted to the class, nursery, or activity. The nursery will be equipped with a thermometer.
2. During times of high risk of infectious disease, the toys in the nursery will be paired down to a number and type that are easily cleaned. After each class the toys, chairs, and table will be sanitized.
3. During times of high risk, rolls will be kept for all children's activities, and if a child is diagnosed with sickness the other families will be informed that there was a reported case.
4. During a COVID or similar epidemic, the Session may decide to suspend all children's activities and close the nursery.

Visitation.

1. In-person visits by members of the church will be discouraged. This will include the monthly delivery of communion. Alternate means of visitation will be used instead including phone calls and sending cards.
2. The pastor may continue to visit for emergency situations, but will use precautions to maintain safety.

Office and Staff.

1. Employees will be screened for temperature and other symptoms when they come to work each day.
2. Visitors to the office will be screened for temperature and other symptoms.
3. The congregation will be advised to minimize visits to the office. Communications should be done by email or phone if at all possible.
4. Staff will be trained on this policy.

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Leadership.

1. The Session will decide when this policy is in effect.
2. The Session will consult information from the CDC, county and state health departments, and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.
3. The Session, worship committee, Christian Education committee, ushers, and staff will all ensure that the procedures in the policy are followed.

Last amended: July 6, 2020