

Crosswind Community Church Guidelines to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

This set of guidelines will help Crosswind Church continue its worship gatherings, use of the facility and its overall mission while keeping our congregation and staff safe.

Note that: This guidance is not based on any specific law or provision that will infringe on our First Amendment rights as provided in the US Constitution, specifically the freedom to worship. These are just based on suggestions offered by CDC and our compliance will be driven by our unique culture of worship and gathering as a faith family. Consistent with their own faith traditions, in the course of preparing their own plans to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In communities deemed by CDC's guidance to be significant mitigation areas, the risk to the larger community of continuing or resuming in-person gatherings should be taken into account and virtual options strongly considered. All decisions about following CDC's recommendations should be made in collaboration with local health officials and other State and local authorities who can help assess the current level of mitigation needed based levels of COVID-19 community transmission and the capacities of the local public health and healthcare systems. CDC offers the following suggestions for consideration to the extent consistent with each community's faith tradition.

- Protect staff and congregants who are at higher risk for severe illness encouraging use of options to participate virtually, if possible.
- Continue to provide congregants with spiritual and emotional care and counseling on a flexible or virtual basis, or refer them to other available resources.
- Encourage staff or congregants who are sick to stay at home. Those who show symptoms while in the facility should go home.
- Our childcare or educational programming for children and youth will follow CDC guidance on mask-wearing and social distancing for such programs. Teachers will have to inform the children's ministry leader if they have symptoms and are unable to come in-person so arrangements for a replacement teacher can be made.
- The size of in person gatherings will be limited to 50 people as per the Arapahoe County guidelines published on October 26, 2020.
- Pre-registration will be required for in-person attendance.
- Social distancing (at least 6 feet) except for families seated together will be maintained.

- Except for children less than 2 years old, masks should be worn around the facility except when at your seat during worship, either with your family or social distanced from the next person. Keeping the mask worn at all times is the individual's discretion. Not using a face mask may also be appropriate at times for some individuals who have trouble breathing or need assistance to remove their mask
- We will continue to stream our services and hold virtual gatherings (by remote viewing) for our vulnerable members, the elderly who are above 65 years old, those with pre-existing conditions, and the immunocompromised.
- Healthy hygiene practices like handwashing and use of hand sanitizers will be observed at all times. Hand sanitizer stations are available at different locations in our facility.
- We will use pre-packed communion elements that we can purchase online for the Lord's Supper.
- Care should be taken in the collection of tithes and offering during in-person worship. We'll continue to encourage our members to use our online tool. We also have offering boxes on the half walls at the back of the sanctuary where folks can safely drop their T&O.
- **Congregating in one area before and after events should be avoided.**
- **Traffic flow will be managed so that there will be one main entry door and one exit door (the backdoor near the AV room). We will post signs that direct traffic. We avoid propping this door open with rocks or any objects. A door sensor can be added to detect when this door is ajar, or we can use the Vivint app notifications.**
- **The main entrance door will be swung open up 20 minutes after the start of the event after which it will be closed. Elders will be assigned to man the entrance and lobby area and will open the doors to latecomers.**
- **Temperature will be taken by a crew at the lobby for those entering the building. Symptoms will be observed by those in the crew. We will have folks sign a waiver once.**
- **If we can, we can mount hand wipes on the main door, so people avoid direct contact with the door handles.**
- **We'll make sure to replace the filters of our furnace before winter and summer seasons to ensure good circulation of air.**

- Food at special events should be subject to precautions (sharing from a common dish, etc.)
- Communicate clearly with staff and congregants about actions being taken to protect their health. This guidelines document will be posted on our website in PDF format.

Other important guidelines:

- Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and promote everyday protective measures, such as washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes and properly wearing a face covering will be posted at different locations of the facility.
- Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces during times the church is cleaned and before and after church activities. Teams will be responsible for disinfecting their equipment and area that they have touched.
- The church cleaning crew will use special disinfecting products while cleaning the facility once a week. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening the main door at certain times.
- The drinking fountains should not be used during this time to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.
- As an option, we can hold other gatherings outdoors, as circumstances and the weather allow.
- Consider temporarily limiting the sharing of frequently touched objects, such as worship aids, prayer books, hymnals, religious texts and other bulletins, books or other items passed or shared among congregants, and encourage congregants to bring their own, if possible, photocopying, or projecting prayers, songs, and texts using electronic means.

- Identify an area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms during hours of operation.
- Ensure that children are not left without adult supervision.

What to do in the event of a possible outbreak:

- Communication and transparency – we will inform the congregation of the number of active cases of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality of private personal information.
- If the pastor or members of the staff get infected with COVID-19, the elders and ministry leaders should be ready to fill in role assignments and perform anything necessary to keep the ministries going in our facility.
- Inform those with exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to get tested and stay home if tested positive as well as self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
- Temporarily close off areas used by the sick person and do not use the area until after cleaning and disinfection; wait 24 hours to clean and disinfect to reduce risk to individuals cleaning. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible before cleaning and disinfecting.
- Advise sick staff and congregants not to return to the facility until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation or when they get clearance from their primary care physician.
- Monitor absenteeism and create a roster of trained back-up staff. Designate a staff person to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. We should know who this person is and how to contact them.