

COVID 19 Preparedness Plan

Calvary Baptist Church

Rochester, Minnesota

Calvary Baptist Church is committed to protecting the health and well-being of its members and is committed to providing a safe and healthy worship setting for all of our attendees. In light of the guidelines provided for reopening our church, the deacons have developed the following Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. All of our members are responsible for implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for spreading of the COVID 19 virus during services in our church and that requires the cooperation of all of our attendees. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety of our gatherings and preserve the best interests of Calvary as a whole.

We are concerned about the safety and health of our attendees worshipping at Calvary Baptist Church as well as following the guidelines provided by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. The deacons have spent many hours attending webinars, reviewing opening plan outlines, and attending meetings to discuss and adopt this Preparedness Plan as required by our state guidelines.

This plan will address:

Screening procedures for signs of COVID 19

Identification of sick attendees

Contact Tracing

Hygiene and Handwashing

Respiratory Etiquette

Social Distancing

Housekeeping

Communications

Screening Policies for staff and attendees exhibiting signs of COVID 19

1. All members and attendees should be aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID 19 and are encouraged to self-monitor. Signs and symptoms of COVID 19 infection are listed on signage posted on each entry door to the church.
2. All Staff will be screened for symptoms prior to each service.
3. We are depending on self-monitoring of our attendees and discouraging anyone who is ill from attending whether those symptoms are consistent with COVID 19 or not.

The following statement has been communicated to all members of the church regarding monitoring for signs of COVID 19:

If you are sick, please stay home. If you are at high risk, please consider our alternate service time on Thursday. For those with a positive test for COVID-19 or those exposed to those infected with COVID 19, worship services can be accessed via our livestream services at home or in your vehicle via the simultaneous FM broadcast into the church parking lot.

Prompt Identification and isolation of sick attendees

In the event that anyone attending a service develops symptoms or begins to manifest symptoms of illness, our safety personnel will immediately isolate that person in the southwest corner class room on the second floor. The remainder of the safety personnel, the staff and deacons attending the service will evacuate the attendees in the auditorium. Should this situation occur, we will ask those attending to provide their contact information to allow contact tracing should the ill person be positive for COVID-19.

Contact Tracing

Calvary Baptist Church has a policy of informing all members and attendees by member email lists if they have been exposed to a person with COVID 19 at a worship service and informing them of any recommendations from Public Health Officials. We will communicate via email and phone tree regarding any positive diagnosis and will follow recommendations of Public Health Officials in order to prevent further spread or exposure.

We will protect privacy of those infected with COVID 19 by notification of the diagnosis anonymously unless the infected person directs us to share their identity as a prayer request.

Hygiene and Handwashing

Basic infection prevention measures are being implemented at our gatherings at all times. Members and attendees are asked to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds both before and after attending any gathering. We provide hand sanitizer dispensers which can be used for hand hygiene.

The lower floor rest room facilities are open during worship services. During worship services, the remainder of the building will be marked off with yellow caution tape. We ask that attendees do not

cross into isolated areas. Due to sanitation processes, the remainder of the building will be closed except to staff for the duration of the worship services.

Respiratory Etiquette

The Governor of Minnesota has determined that a face covering (covering the nose and mouth) must be worn in indoor public settings including church worship services. Therefore, the deacons request that each attendee age 6 and above wear a face covering during our indoor worship services (Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday). Individuals speaking or singing are not required to wear a face covering during that activity. Wearing a face covering is optional during outdoor worship services.

The Governor's Executive Order also states that "individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering" and "children who are five years old and under" are exempt from the face covering requirements. Exempt from these requirements means that those individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering means that such individuals can attend services without a face covering. Also, children who are five years old and under are also exempt and can thus attend services without a face covering.

Individuals not wearing a face covering during worship services are not required by the church to provide proof of a medical health condition, mental health condition, or disability; nor are such individuals required to explain the nature of their conditions or disability (as per anti-discrimination laws).

As an alternative to attending a live service, an individual unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability can remotely participate in the worship service via the church's live stream. A link for the live stream worship service can be found on Calvary Baptist's Webpage at cbcroch.org.

During indoor worship services, church staff will remain masked except while presenting to the congregation or during music presentations. To minimize the dispersion of aerosols during the worship service, front seats have been moved back from the platform to protect attendees during platform music presentations. To further minimize aerosols, the deacons request that individuals in the congregation who wish to sing during music presentations wear a face covering.

All entry doors have appropriate signage stating that face coverings are required to enter the building. If you have a face covering, we ask that you bring it. If you do not have a face covering or you have forgotten to bring yours, the church has a limited supply of disposable face coverings for your use.

The deacons request that all individuals age 6 or above wear a face covering while in the building unless you are working in an area isolated from others.

Social Distancing

We have attempted to maximize and promote social distancing implementation in our auditorium via the following.

1. Seating arrangement

Our chair placement has been arranged in household clusters mainly in groups of 4 but with some 5 or 3 clusters. Please sit in households and do not mix households. If your household requires extra chairs, you may use two clusters or ask the ushers/safety team for assistance. Please do not move the chairs yourself.

2. Limited Occupancy

Our building capacity has been decreased because of this seating arrangement. We will be simulcasting our service via FM transmission into the church parking lot. If we reach seating capacity, we ask that you enjoy the service in this fashion or via livestream.

3. Traffic Pattern

In an attempt to prevent breakdown of social distancing, the auditorium has been marked for a specific traffic pattern. There are four main west doors accessing the auditorium from the parking lot. The south two doors are designated for entrance. The north two doors are designated for exit.

4. Avoidance of person to person contact

We encourage members to avoid handshakes and close contact during personal greetings. We understand the need for fellowship and that we have all missed our family in Christ but request that people maintain social distancing during conversations.

There will be no bulletins, no hymnals, nor passing of offering plates. Offering plates will be placed on tables near the entrance and exit. Hand to hand passing of items will be avoided.

5. Communion Services

Communion will typically be a part of the worship service once per month on Thursday and Sunday worship services. Combination cracker/juice communion individual vessels are used for these services. The vessels will be available on tables near the entrance of the auditorium. Each individual wishing to participate in communion will take a vessel upon entering the auditorium. The communion vessel will only be handled by the individual participating. After the communion has been observed, the empty vessel will be collected by the deacons from each individual attending.

Housekeeping

Regular housekeeping practices are being implemented, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of all areas in the worship environment, including restrooms. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will be conducted in high-touch areas, such as door handles (when not propped open). We have contracted with an outside vendor to clean occupied areas twice per week.

Communications

This Preparedness Plan will be communicated via email and posted to our website for all members and attendees. Additional communication and training will be ongoing via public announcements during services and internet. Pastors and deacons are to monitor how effective the program has been implemented by paying special attention before and after church gatherings. They will report together via emails and via regularly scheduled meetings. This Preparedness Plan has been communicated via email to Calvary Baptist Church pastors and deacons for approval.

Church leadership will update the program as necessary. Updates to the program are approved by the deacon board and communicated to the members by email.