

**COVID-19 Preparedness Plan  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Rochester, Minnesota**

Calvary Baptist Church is committed to providing a safe worship setting for all of our attendees. We are concerned about the health of our attendees worshipping at Calvary Baptist Church during this declared COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the guidelines provided by the State of Minnesota for worshipping, the deacons have developed the following Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All of our members are responsible for following this plan. Our goal is to lessen the potential for spreading the COVID-19 virus during worship services and other gatherings in our church. The deacons ask for the cooperation of all of our attendees. Only through a cooperative effort can we maintain the safety of our gatherings and preserve the best interests of Calvary Baptist Church as a whole.

**This plan will address:**

**Screening for Workers and Attendees for Signs of COVID-19**

**Contact Tracing**

**Hygiene and Handwashing**

**Respiratory Etiquette**

**Social Distancing**

**Housekeeping**

**Facility**

**Communications**

## **Screening for Workers and Attendees for 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 (fever, cough, shortness of breath) are listed on signage posted by each entry to the church.
2. All workers should screen for symptoms prior to each service or gathering.
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 for infection, please consider our alternate service time on Thursday. For those with a positive test for COVID-19 or those exposed to anyone positive for COVID-19 during the previous 14 days, worship services can be accessed via our livestream services at home.

## **Contact Tracing**

Calvary Baptist Church weekly informs all members and regular attendees of announcements and updates through centralized email lists. We also have a visitor's center where attendees that visit our worship service can register their contact information (Connection Card). If we learn of an individual who has attended a worship service with a positive test for COVID-19, we would notify the membership through our weekly email update. Visitors to that particular worship service would be notified by email or phone through the information obtained from our visitor's center.

We protect the privacy of any individual 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 recommended to be followed at our gatherings. Members and attendees should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds both before and after attending any gathering. As an alternative to hand washing, we provide hand sanitizer dispensers (62-70% Ethyl Alcohol) which can be used for hand hygiene.

During worship services, some rooms within the building are locked. We ask that attendees do not access isolated areas. The rest room facilities are open during worship services and church gatherings.

The serving of coffee and bakery rolls prior to and after worship services has been discontinued until further notice. Monthly Sunday night fellowships have been canceled for the foreseeable future.

## **Respiratory Etiquette**

The Governor of Minnesota has determined that a face covering (covering the nose and mouth including protective face shields) shall be worn in indoor public settings including church worship services. Therefore, the deacons ask that each attendee age 6 and above wear a face covering during our indoor worship services (Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday). Individuals speaking or singing on the platform in the front of the auditorium 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 condition or disability (as per anti-discrimination laws). It will be assumed based upon the sincerity of each individual without a face covering that they meet the above criteria.

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 livestream. A link for the livestream worship service can be found on Calvary Baptist's Webpage at [cbcroch.org](http://cbcroch.org).

During indoor worship services, church workers will wear face coverings except while presenting to the congregation or during music presentations. To minimize the dispersion of aerosols during the worship service, the position of the presenters has been moved back from the front of the platform (20 feet of separation) to protect attendees during platform music presentations. To further minimize aerosols, the deacons ask that individuals in the congregation who wish to sing during music presentations wear a face covering.

All entries to the building have appropriate signage stating that face coverings are needed to enter the building. If an individual has a face covering, we ask that you bring it. If an individual does not have a face covering with them, the church has a limited supply of disposable face coverings for your use.

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

### **Social Distancing**

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

#### **1. Seating arrangement**

Our chair placement has been arranged in household clusters mainly in groups of 4 but some with between 2 and 6 clusters. We ask that attendees sit in households and not mix households. If your household requires extra chairs, you may use two clusters or ask the ushers for assistance. Please do not move the chairs yourself.

## 2. Limited Occupancy

Our auditorium capacity has been decreased because of this seating arrangement. The capacity in the auditorium is below the stated 50% capacity that the governor has requested.

If capacity is reached for our Sunday morning worship service, we will consider a second worship service.

## 3. 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 ask that people maintain social distancing during conversations.

There will be no hymnals. During the worship service, words to the hymns or praise songs are projected onto the screen at the front of the auditorium. Offering plates will not be passed from person to person by the ushers. Offering plates will be placed on the welcome center counter near the entrance to the auditorium.

## 4. Communion Services

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

## 5. Outdoor Services

Outdoor worship services on the surrounding property of the church may be held weather permitting. Social distancing by household is still requested during these services. Face coverings are optional at these gatherings. Some members, who

may require minimal exposure to others, may attend these outdoor services in their vehicle.

## **Housekeeping**

Regular housekeeping practices occur including routine cleaning of all areas used including the auditorium and restrooms. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting is conducted in high-touch areas, such as door handles (when not propped open).

After using an area of the building, including the auditorium, the environment is disinfected. An atomizer (Ryobi Electrostatic Sprayer P2807) is used with a botanical disinfectant solution (Bioesque – Thymol) to disinfect surfaces that have come into contact with the attendees in areas where people have gathered after they have vacated the area. Areas in use are disinfected at least once per week.

## **Facility**

Worship services take place in the auditorium of Calvary Baptist Church. The auditorium is very large with a cathedral ceiling that peaks at 48 feet from the floor below. A central duct with multiple grilles at the ceiling supplies filtered fresh air mixed with recycled air that is temperature controlled. Return air is separated, some being exhausted outside and the remaining mixed with fresh air before conditioning. Ventilation flow within the auditorium is assisted by two large ceiling fans ensuring adequate intake to exhaust air flow.

Entrances and exits for the building all include vestibules between inside and outside doors for containment and maintenance of inside air flow.

## **Communications**

This COVID-19 Preparedness Plan is communicated via email link on the weekly email update and posted to our website for all members and attendees. Additional communication will be ongoing via announcements during services and on the church's website. Pastors and deacons monitor the effectiveness of the program by evaluating worship services and church gatherings. Deacons may state concerns to each other via emails and via regularly scheduled meetings. This Preparedness Plan is reviewed and approved by Calvary Baptist Church pastors and deacons.

Church leadership will update the program as necessary. Updates to the program are approved by the deacon board. As changes become necessary, the program is

updated, communicated in the weekly email update, and published on the church's website.