



## **Return to Church Plan**

This plan is written with the goal of reducing the risk of exposure to the virus that causes Covid-19, for our congregation and staff. All pertinent documents and reliable sources have been consulted in the creation of this plan. This is a living document, and is subject to change, as restrictions or protocols are implemented or lifted. A full list of resources and references can be found at the end of this document.

*"Coronavirus is transmitted via liquid droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. The virus can enter through these droplets through the eyes, nose or throat if you are in close contact.*

*The virus is not known to be airborne (e.g. transmitted through the particles floating in the air) and it is not something that comes in through the skin.*

*It can be spread by touch if a person has used their hands to cover their mouth or nose when they cough. That's why we recommend you cough or sneeze into your arm and wash your hands regularly."*

Effective upon re-opening, we will be implementing the following enhanced protocols, procedures, and safety measures:  
(You may be asked to leave if you are not adhering to the following list)

### **1. Public Access/Entry to Building**

- a) Access to Gateway Christian Life Centre will be done through the 2 main doors in the foyer. Greeters will be present to give direction. Please maintain social distancing while waiting to enter the building and while inside the building.
- b) Adhere to all signage and floor markings
- c) Entry to Gateway Christian Life Centre is limited to 50 people including staff and volunteers. Entry will be done on a first come basis. Please be aware that you may not be able to obtain access to the church if max capacity has been reached.
- d) At this time children 12 and under will not be permitted.
- e) If you are considered "at risk" (immunocompromised, over 65 years old or have health conditions) do a self assessment and consider the risk before attending an event
- f) Kitchen will be closed for any use
- g) Coffee bar will be closed for any use
- h) Office will be restricted to Staff and approved volunteers only
- i) The main bathrooms will be closed. Nursery bathroom will be available for use if required
- j) In case of Fire or Emergency please exit through the closet exit door even if the door is taped off for distancing protocols. No exit doors will be locked or blocked with objects other than painters tape across the door frame.

## **2. Self-Assessment & Daily Health Check**

- a) Staff and Volunteers will self-assess daily for any symptoms of Covid-19
- b) Attendees are required to self assess prior to attending Gateway Christian Life Centre. Please refer to Canada's Self-Assessment Tool: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>
- c) Symptoms of Covid-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses and seasonal allergies. A attendee, Staff or volunteer may not attend Gateway for in person events with even mild symptoms that may be signs of Covid-19 including:
  - Fever
  - Cough
  - Chills
  - Shortness of breath
  - Sore throat or pain with swallowing
  - Stuffy or runny nose
  - Loss of sense of smell
  - Headache
  - Muscle aches
  - Fatigue
  - Loss of appetite
- d) Attendees, staff or volunteers who have traveled outside of Canada within the 14 days prior to an in person event, will not be permitted to any in person events.
- e) Attendees, staff or volunteers who have been in close contact with anyone presenting with Covid-19 symptoms are to not attend an event for 14 days since contact.
- f) If an attendee develops symptoms during an event or activity, they must leave the event or activity promptly
- g) Appropriate signs will be posted throughout the church and must be adhered to

## **3. Physical Distancing**

- a) House hold members may remain in close contact and attempts will be made to seat them together pending availability of seating
- b) Foyer is closed for socialization. No beverages or snacks will be provided.
- c) Social distancing of 6 feet must be adhered to when in the building and in parking lot
- d) Floor markings will be placed 6 feet in the foyer while you are waiting to be seated by a greeter
- e) Chairs in the sanctuary are not to be moved as they are set for distancing protocols
- f) Physical distancing will be followed during the event or activity and you must remain at your designated seating area until the end of the event or activity unless required to use the washroom located in the nursery
- g) The main bathrooms will be closed. Nursery bathroom will be available for use if required (one person at a time to be in the nursery area)
- h) No greeting with hand shaking or touching.
- i) Appropriate signs will be posted throughout the church

## **4. Hygiene**

- a) Everyone entering the building must use the hand sanitizer at the door
- b) Proper hand washing must be done:
  - After using the washroom
  - After coughing or sneezing (avoid coughing or sneezing into hands)

- If hands are visibly dirty
- c) Soap and paper towels will be provided in nursery washroom
- d) Hand washing procedures will be posted by each sink area
- e) Snacks and drinks will not be shared among attendees
- f) Drinking water will not be available. Bring a water bottle pre filled if needed
- g) Signage will explain that the virus can be transmitted by droplets, transferred from the hand to the face
- h) Appropriate signs will be posted throughout the building

## **5. Equipment**

- a) Microphones will not be shared without being disinfected
- b) Doors will be propped open to reduce touch contacts
- c) Seating will not be available in the foyer
- d) Fabric seating within the sanctuary will be wiped and left for 72 hours without use between events/activities

## **6. Enhanced Cleaning**

- a) Common touch areas, such as doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, musical equipment, and front door, will be cleaned between each event or activity
- b) Regular cleaning and sanitizing will be increased and a full clean will be provided between every event or activity

## **7. Personal Protective Equipment**

- a) Masks may be worn by attendees, staff and volunteers but is not required and will not be provided
- b) Physical distancing will be enforced
- c) Hand sanitizer will be supplied/ administered upon entering the building

## **8. Resources & References**

- a) <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>
- b) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- c) <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

