

**Grace Mennonite Church Covid Guidelines
for Worship Services and Church Events**
(Government of Manitoba – Phase Four)

1. Seating for Worship Services

- Gathering size limitations as per Manitoba Public Health guidelines will be followed. These guidelines are for faith-based services.
- 100 people services are allowed with no need of sub-groups. This number allows for comfortable physical distancing in main sanctuary and balcony. (Does not include the overflow.)

2. Parking Lot

- Attendees are required to maintain social distance on the church parking lot.

3. Preparing Facility

- The congregation can expect that areas used for services will be cleaned and disinfected according to Manitoba Public Health guidelines before they arrive and after they leave.
- After each public event, high touched items will be cleaned and disinfected.
- All non essential items will be removed from the foyer, sanctuary and nursery. (i.e. pillows, chairs, all items in pews including - hymnals, songbooks, offering envelopes)
- There will be floor markers for directional flow and to help congregants maintain their distance from people outside of their household.
- Signage will be posted to encourage social distancing, proper hygiene, coughing/sneezing into elbow, etc.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at the entrances and in various other locations.

4. Preparing the Congregation

- The congregation will receive a Constant Contact preparing them for what to expect when coming to Grace for worship services.

5. Self-Assessment

- Congregants, staff and volunteers are reminded to stay home if they are feeling unwell, even if their symptoms are mild.
- All congregants, staff and volunteers should screen themselves for symptoms of Covid-19 or exposures prior to entering the facility.
- A link to the latest self-assessment tool should be included in the Constant Contacts sent out by the office.
- <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

6. Entering / Exiting Building

- Maintain a single point of entry into the building to ensure occupancy limits are followed. Several exits are available. At all times congregants should ensure physical distancing is maintained.
- When the weather permits, outside doors will be propped open.
- Ushers will be available to greet and assist in the foyer. Ushers must maintain a physical distance and avoid physical contact with congregants.
- Social distancing should be maintained all the way to your seat in the sanctuary.
- If choosing to come to Grace, we are expecting congregants to maintain a social distance between households.
- People socializing together are asked to physically distance themselves from members outside of their household, except for brief necessary exchanges.
- Traditional greetings such as handshakes should be avoided.

7. Seating and Social Distancing in the Sanctuary

- Households must sit together and they are to maintain social distancing between households.
- Ushers may be asked to assist you in finding a seat.
- Ushers will be appointed to dismiss congregants after the service so as to maintain social distancing between households exiting the sanctuary.

8. Stage

- Music worship teams will be limited to 3 or 4 on stage and 1 pianist and 1 organist.
- Seating or standing arrangements should allow for at least 2 metre/6' separation between participants.
- Each person should have their own microphone and music stand. Sheet music or devices with electronic sheet music should not be shared.
- There will be a hand sanitizer station on stage.
- All people involved in the worship service should practise social distancing.
- The worship team will remain on stage for the duration of the service.

9. Congregational Singing

- At this time, we will not be facilitating congregational singing.

10. Offering

- Offering plates will not be passed for donations during the worship service.
- Consider using one of these donation options
 - mailing your cheque to the church
 - through automatic withdrawal
 - e-transfer at donate@gracesteinbach.ca

- emailing the office to arrange a time to drop off a donation
- stationary box to be made available

11. Sound Booth Technicians

- There should be only one technician in the sound booth unless both are from the same household.
- Physical distancing between households must be maintained.
- Microphones, music stands, headphones, laptops, desk counter, etc. should be cleaned and disinfected after every event.
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be available.

12. Bulletins

- Bulletins will be available on the church website.
- Paper bulletins will not be distributed at worship services.

13. Alternate Service Options

- An additional form of the worship service will be provided. This may be an audio service on the website.

14. Nursery

- Nursery will be closed except for parents with infants.

15. Volunteers

- The scheduling of Worship Services will depend on availability of volunteers (i.e. ushers, worship participants, cleaning volunteers, etc.).

16. Library

- The library will be open during office hours – tentatively Tuesday to Friday from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.
- Hand sanitizer will be available before entering the library which is to be used before handling the books.
- There may not be a librarian on duty.
- Returned books are to be put in the return bin.
- Books may be signed out.

17. Higher-Risk Activities

- Coffee and food will not be served in the foyer following the worship service.
- Children's Church and Adult Formation will not resume in church.
- Communion and baptism services will not take place.
- Group meals will not be facilitated in the church building.

- Social gatherings that occur outside of in-person services should follow all guidelines related to social distancing, group size, cleaning/disinfecting, food/drink and other applicable guidelines.

18. Non essential spaces

- Foyer, sanctuary, nursery and designated washrooms are available for use during the worship services.
- Until Children's Church resumes, all other areas in the church will be closed including the basement, kitchen, upper level, middle level (other than designated washrooms).

19. Masks

- We encourage the wearing of masks for congregants. People should bring their own masks as masks will not be provided by the church.
- The church requests that volunteers and ushers wear masks. The church will provide masks for volunteers and ushers when needed.

20. Washroom Facilities

- Washrooms will be cleaned and disinfected before and after each event.

21. Hand Sanitizer

- Hand sanitizer stations will be located at the entrances and exits and placed in various locations in areas used for worship services.

22. Sanitation Team

- As required, a sanitation team will be appointed to aid with the extra cleaning and disinfecting due to Manitoba Public Health guidelines.

23. Church Events (other than worship services)

- Follow the guidelines in this document that apply to the Church Event.
- See the *Church Events Checklist* created for the event coordinator before planning an event. This document is available from the office.