

Grace Mennonite Church Covid Guidelines for Worship Services and Church Events

Public Health Orders

Due to Government of Manitoba Public Health Covid restrictions please note the following:

- Worship Services whether indoors or outdoors will comply with the Public Health capacity restrictions and orders.
- All other church activities will follow Public Health orders in regards to capacity and restrictions.
- You may contact the church at office@gracesteinbach.ca.

- 1) Seating for Worship Services
 - a) Gathering size limitations as per Manitoba Public Health guidelines will be followed. These guidelines are for faith-based services.
- 2) Parking Lot
 - a) Attendees are required to maintain social distance on the church parking lot.
- 3) Preparing Facility
 - a) Signage will be posted to encourage social distancing, proper hygiene, coughing/sneezing into elbow, etc.
 - b) Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at the entrances and in various other locations.
- 4) Preparing the Congregation
 - a) The congregation will receive a Constant Contact preparing them for what to expect when coming to Grace for worship services.
- 5) Self-Assessment
 - a) Congregants, staff and volunteers are reminded to stay home if they are feeling unwell, even if their symptoms are mild.
 - b) All congregants, staff and volunteers should screen themselves for symptoms of Covid-19 or exposures prior to entering the facility.

- c) A link to the latest self-assessment tool should be included in the Constant Contacts sent out by the office.
 - d) <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
- 6) Entering / Exiting Building
- a) When the weather permits, outside doors should be propped open.
 - b) Ushers will be available to greet and assist in the foyer. Ushers should maintain a physical distance and avoid physical contact with congregants.
 - c) While in the church building, congregants are asked to maintain physical distance between households for worship services and all other activities including socializing.
 - d) Traditional greetings such as handshakes should be avoided.
 - e) Following the Worship Service, the ushers will dismiss the congregation row by row. Attendees are asked to exit the building immediately after the service to minimize the time that individuals are together indoors. Visiting should occur outdoors.
- 7) Masks
- a) Masks are mandatory in the church building wherever the public normally has access.
- 8) Seating and Social Distancing in the Sanctuary
- a) Households must sit together and they are to maintain social distancing between households.
 - b) Ushers may be asked to assist you in finding a seat.
 - c) Ushers will be appointed to dismiss congregants after the service so as to maintain social distancing between households exiting the sanctuary.
- 9) Worship Team Participants
- a) Worship Team Participants are asked to use hand sanitizer when entering the building and again when leaving the building as soundbooth equipment (mics, mic stands, mic cords, music stands, etc.) is no longer being disinfected by the soundbooth technicians inbetween use.
 - b) All people involved in the worship service should maintain physical distancing between households. Seating or standing arrangements should allow for at least 2 metre/6' separation between participants/households.
 - c) Each household should have their own microphone and music stand. Sheet music or devices with electronic sheet music should not be shared.
 - d) There will be a hand sanitizer station on stage.
- 10) Congregational Singing
- a) Congregational singing allowed at this time.

11) Offering

- a) Consider using one of these donation options
 - i) mailing your cheque to the church
 - ii) through automatic withdrawal
 - iii) e-transfer at donate@gracesteinbach.ca
 - iv) emailing the office to arrange a time to drop off a donation
 - v) stationary box to be made available

12) Bulletins

- a) Paper bulletins can be distributed at worship services. i.e. left on pews or handed out by ushers
- b) It is recommended that the ushers wear masks when handing out bulletins.

13) Alternate Service Options

- a) An additional form of the worship service will be provided. This may be a live streaming service and/or audio service on the website.

14) Nursery

- a) Nursery is open.
- b) Those using the nursery are asked to distance between households when possible.

15) Library

- a) The church library will be open if Public Health orders state that community public libraries are allowed to be open.
- b) The library will be open during office hours – tentatively Tuesday to Friday from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and also during the worship services.
- c) Hand sanitizer will be available before entering the library which is to be used before handling the books.
- d) There may not be a librarian on duty.
- e) Returned books are to be put in the return bin.
- f) Books may be signed out.
- g) Library guests are asked to sign the guest book on the library table.

16) Coffee and Food (i.e. cinnamon buns provided by the church)

- a) Served outdoors and not in the foyer.
- b) Disposable cups, stir sticks, etc. should be used.
- c) Individual creamers and sugar packages should be purchased and used when serving coffee.
- d) Food and beverages should be served by a few designated persons (versus people serving themselves).
- e) It is recommended that designed serving persons wear masks and use disposable gloves.

- f) Coffee/food should not be served if inclement weather does not allow people to be outdoors.

17) Meals at Church Events (i.e. Fall Fellowship Lunch)

- a) All food and beverages should be served and consumed outdoors.
- b) Coffee provided by the church should follow # 17 guidelines.
- c) If beverages and/or food is part of the fellowship at an event, each household must bring their own beverages, food, dishes, cutlery, etc. and are asked to not share with other households.
- d) Event should be cancelled if inclement weather does not permit people to be outdoors.

18) Miscellaneous

- a) Children's Church and Adult Formation will resume following Public Health guidelines.
- b) Communion and baptism services may take place following Public Health guidelines.

19) Non essential spaces

- a) Foyer, sanctuary, nursery and washrooms are available for use during the worship services.
- b) Children's Church may use classroom areas and basement or middle level washrooms.
- c) All other areas in the church not being used for Sunday services and Children's Church will be closed Sunday mornings.

20) Hand Sanitizer

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