

09/15/2020

Covid-19 Safety Plan

The BC Centre for Disease Controlⁱ and WorkSafe BCⁱⁱ require faith based organizations to prepare a Covid-19 Safety Plan. To comply with this requirement and those of the Provincial Health Officerⁱⁱⁱ, Beacon Church is adopting the following practices effective September 15, 2020.

General

- Maintain up-to-date contact information for staff and volunteers.
- Record who is volunteering and attending at services and group events and keep records for 30 days.
- Regularly remind volunteers about appropriate physical distancing, facility-specific risk-reduction measures, and proper respiratory and hygiene practices.

Entry and Greeting

- A maximum of 50 people should be allowed in for a service or event at any one time.
- Individuals and households will be requested to remain at least 6 feet apart from others.
- Volunteers, and visitors who are sick, who have travelled from outside of Canada, or who have been advised by public health to self-isolate will not be allowed to enter.
- Volunteers will guide congregants through the bottle-neck area of the front entrance and stairs in order to maintain distancing.
- All previously unregistered attendees will be required to provide their name and contact information upon arrival. This is to support efforts of public health officials in contact tracing in the event of an outbreak.

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- Signage will be posted explaining the measures we are taking and asking of our guests.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at the door and at convenient locations for people to use upon entering.
- Greeters will remain at least 2 metres from attendees.
- Non-essential pamphlets, books, and magazines will not be available.
- Coffee and Tea and other refreshments normally offered for the sake of hospitality will not be available.

Worship

- Those at high-risk of complications due to COVID-19, including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, are encouraged to use caution in attending and will be told about our livestream worship and online resources.
- Volunteers and others interacting closely with high-risk individuals will be asked to wear a mask.
- A maximum of 50 people including volunteers and staff will be allowed at a single service.
- Multiple services will be spaced one hour apart for cleaning and airing out the facility.
- All who wish to attend services and group events will be asked to RSVP by online registration. Drop-in guests will be asked to provide contact information and admitted if there is space available.
- Drive-in attendees will be capped at 50 vehicles and must observe distancing measures while using public restrooms.
- Seating will be arranged to ensure physical distancing between individuals who are not members of the same household.

- Shaking hands, hugging, touching, or passing items between people compromises the 6 foot distance between congregants and should not occur, except between members of the same household or cohort family. Alternatives such as waving and nodding should be encouraged.
- Self-serve communion will be replaced with individually wrapped elements distributed by volunteers.
- The designated servers should wash or sanitize hands immediately before serving.

Congregational Singing

- The BC CDC advises to “reduce the duration of indoor singing”.^{iv} Singing will be limited to 20-25 minutes.
- Song leaders and musicians will keep 10 feet away from the nearest congregants while singing.
- A physical barrier will be provided between leaders and participants.
- Participants will face the same direction and maintain the recommended distance from others while singing.

ⁱ <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/community-settings/faith-based-organizations> [Accessed September 15, 2020].

ⁱⁱ <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/faith-based-organizations> [Accessed September 15, 2020].

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-gatherings-events.pdf> [Accessed September 15, 2020].

^{iv} <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/community-settings/choirs-and-bands> [Accessed September 15, 2020].