

# FAITH NAZ CHURCH

## FCN Covid-19 Re-Engaging Protocols

Purpose: To provide guidelines for re-engaging Faith Community Church of the Nazarene ministry activities that allows for the safest possible environment to LOVE God and Others; GO and make disciples; and SERVE together as a family.

### Scaling Up Operations

- Establish and maintain communication with local and State authorities to determine current mitigation levels in the region.
- Primary access to the main building will be through the south side door, next to the main office door (Stuart Ave. side)
- Screening paperwork will be provided, collected, and stored for contact tracing purposes for all persons engaging in activities on FCN ministries.
- All persons engaging in ministries of FCN are to complete screening paperwork
- The church will engage in worship services, including Wednesday nights, Friday nights, and Sunday mornings and evenings, as per county and state guidelines.
- Remote/virtual options for participation must be maintained during this time to ensure maximum engagement from the congregation.
- The pastors are empowered to decide how to Provide protections for at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Offer options for staff at higher risk for severe illness (including older adults and people of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions) that limit their exposure risk through options such as working from home; or working from their offices in the church provided that social distancing and sanitizing protocols are observed.
- Consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, FCN protect the privacy and confidentiality of people at higher risk for severe illness regarding underlying medical conditions.
- Continue to provide congregants with spiritual and emotional care and counseling on a flexible or virtual basis or refer them to other sources for counseling and support if necessary.
- Encourage any organizations that share or use the facilities to also follow these considerations if feasible.
- All comments, Questions, Concerns are to be shared with the church office, pastoral staff, and board members, and will be kept anonymous.

### General Guidelines: Exposure

- To provide the safest possible environment for all persons, FCN asks that if anyone has symptoms of a cold, flu, covid-19 or other contagion, they would notify the office and not expose others in ministerial activities until a-symptomatic.
- If traveling out of California, a 14-day waiting period prior to resuming ministerial activities is recommended, if possible.

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- If travel to a known or active “hot spot,” a 14-day waiting period prior to resuming ministerial activities is recommended, if possible.

## **General Guidelines: Washing, Disinfecting, Sanitizing**

- Encourage staff and congregants to maintain good hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for those who can safely use hand sanitizer), tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects in between use.
- Maintain a schedule of increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Avoid use of items that are not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected (such as children’s toys)
- Ensure use of ventilation systems operate with circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, etc.

## **General Guidelines: Physical Distancing, Face Coverings, Gatherings**

- Encourage staff and congregants to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed.
- Encourage use of cloth face coverings among staff and congregants. Face coverings are most essential when social distancing is difficult. Note: Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.
- Multiple worship services will be scheduled far enough apart to allow time for cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces between services.
- FCN will limit the size of gatherings in accordance with the guidance and directives of state and local authorities. The capacity of the sanctuary is 777 persons.
  - Current Orders by the State of California on 05-25-2020 states: *Places of worship must therefore limit attendance to 25% of building capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower. This limitation will be in effect for the first 21-days of a county public health department’s approval of religious services and cultural ceremonies activities at places of worship within their jurisdictions.*
- Current guidance and directives are no more than 10 persons/per room; including 6’ of physical distancing, for activities not associated with worship services.
- Promote physical distancing at services and other gatherings, and the use of cloth face coverings should be encouraged when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Consider holding services and gatherings in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors, as circumstances allow.

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- The act of singing may contribute to transmission of COVID-19, possibly through emission of aerosols. A face covering should be used for congregants if participating in singing.
- FCN will limit the sharing of frequently touched objects that cannot be easily cleaned between persons, such as pew Bibles, bulletins, tithing collection, and other items received, passed or shared among congregants as part of services.
- FCN encourages appropriate and safe fellowship (greeting, talking in pairs and small groups, salutations) practices that respect physical distancing and face coverings

## **General Guidelines: Plan for when a staff member or congregant becomes sick**

- Identify an area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms during ministry activities or church operations until they can be safely transported to their home or a healthcare facility. Ensure that children are not left without adult supervision.
- Notify local health officials if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the facility and communicate with staff and congregants about potential exposure while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) external icon or other applicable laws and in accordance with religious practices.
- Advise those with exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
- Close off areas used by the sick person and do not use the area until after cleaning and disinfection. Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise staff and congregants with symptoms of COVID-19 or who have tested positive for COVID-19 not to return to the facility until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.

## **General Guidelines: Sanitation Cart**

- Screening paperwork
- Hand Sanitizer
- Disinfectant
- Face coverings
- Gloves
- Trash bags

## **General Guidelines: Room Availability**

- All rooms must be pre-requested and approved through the church office
- Approval is on request and in order of submission.
- Building use is limited to one group per building on campus at a time.
- Multiple buildings can be in use at any one time.

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- The room to person occupancy is limited to state and county health recommendations and guidance
  - Fellowship Hall Main Room: 10 persons
  - Fellowship Hall Side Room: 5 persons
  - Portable (East): 5 persons/room
  - Portable (North): 10 persons
  - Portable (West): 5 persons/room
  - Nursery (Southside room only): 10 persons, including nursery workers
  - Main Building
    - Room 5: 10 persons
    - Room 2: 10 persons
    - Library: 5 persons
    - Action class: 10 persons
    - Lobby: 10 persons
    - Upper Room: 10 persons
    - Sanctuary during worship: 25% or up to 100 persons with 6' physical distancing

## **General Guidelines: Small and Ministry Groups**

- All small groups will observe all above guidelines provided by FCN, as appropriate.
- A hybrid format for these meetings must be made available to participants who want to do so remotely;
- Ministry leader(s) will be trained and accept responsibility for sanitizing the meeting space and enforcing social distancing.
- Ministry leader(s) is responsible for enforcement of guidelines, and must be trained in guidelines prior to first small group activity
- Ministry leader(s) will open the pre-assigned meeting room for participants, prior to activities, with access to the outside to limit the footprint on campus by the group.
- Ministry leader(s) will use the sanitization cart for use of
  - Screening paperwork to be filled out by all participants on campus
  - Cleaning supplies
  - Face coverings
- Ministry leaders will be responsible for sanitization of used spaces and enforcement of social distancing during gatherings.
- Room use is pre-requested for approval for use by ministry leaders(s), unless a room has been pre-designated through past use.

## **General Guidelines: Life Groups**

- All life groups will observe all above guidelines provided by FCN, as appropriate.
- Life Group leader(s) is responsible for enforcement of guidelines

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- Life Group leader(s) will provide remote access for all activities to ensure maximum participation and support all persons in the group
- All Life Groups are encouraged to meet outside, if possible.
- If extra space is required, Life Groups are encouraged to utilize FCN facilities (see General Guidelines: Small and Ministry Groups)