

Covenant Re-Entry Guidelines (Tier III) (For internal use) (Updated: August 31, 2020)

Guiding Principles

- We are committed to the value of gathering together in person for worship and to connect relationally with one another. For individuals to be seen, known, accepted, cared for, and enjoyed, while helping one another grow spiritually.
- We are committed to abiding by the Governor's guidance, our medical community's advice, and the county council's parameters.
- We as a church staff are committed to providing the most effective ministry possible. We see this time as an opportunity when we can grow and deepen as a church, and when we can become more creative and effective in our church's ministry efforts.
- We encourage our church family to be especially gracious to those whose decisions may be different from their own. Each person in the church has (or lives with those who have) different levels of vulnerability and we all have different comfort levels with taking risk. This is a time when it will be important for us to be gracious and understanding toward one another, being quick to bless and accept one another's decisions.
- To Honor and glorify God in all we say and do.

The current executive order, issued by Governor Holcomb, requires face coverings for anyone 8 years old or older in the following places:

- Public indoor spaces and commercial entities
- While using public transportation or other vehicle services such as a taxi or ride share
- Outdoor public spaces when it's not possible to socially distance from people not in the same household
- Face coverings are required in schools for students in the third grade and above, as well as faculty, staff, volunteers and anyone else in schools. Masks are also required for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, with exceptions for strenuous physical activity. Exceptions to the face covering requirement include medical purposes, disabilities, exercising and eating and drinking. Individuals who cannot wear a mask for health reasons should consider alternatives, such as face shields.

General Guidelines

1. The Covenant family is encouraged to gather in small groups whenever possible, consistent with individuals' comfort level. The Medical Advisory Team reminds us that it's safest to meet on-line. **When gathering in person, it is strongly recommended that individuals meet outdoors and follow the three most important medical guidelines to minimize the spread of covid (i.e., wearing masks, physical distancing, and regular hand washing/hand sanitizing, etc.).** Additionally, it is recommended not to serve food. If food is served, it should be "one-touch" rather than requiring multiple contact with serving utensils, etc. There are no limits to the size of outdoor gatherings apart from those set by the Governor.
2. Our buildings are open for Sunday morning worship, staff/leader access, and our Kid's Alive pre-school, which starts on September 8. Additionally, beginning Monday, August 31, our buildings will be open for ministries and groups to utilize (between 2 and 90 participants). Masks are required and it is strongly recommended participants remain 6 feet from each other at all times when in the building. Masks are not required when staff team members work alone in their offices. In most cases, we will utilize rooms that provide outside air flow. There are no plans to provide childcare at this time. If you want to use any of Covenant's spaces, please contact Jerry Miller, Building and Grounds Manager (765-418-6653), as reservations are required. Initially, our room availability will be about 25% of normal capacity; with unique clean requirements our ability to meet every request will be limited.

General Guidelines *(continued)*

3. The Covenant grounds remain open for informal groups of people to gather at any time. There will likely be no access to Covenant's restroom facilities. If you want to use any of Covenant's outside spaces for a scheduled event, please contact Jerry Miller (see above contact information).
4. Individuals participating in official Covenant gatherings (currently Sunday morning worship and all-church connecting gatherings), indoors or outdoors, are required to follow the current medical/food guidelines (see #1 above). This ensures that the most people possible are able to participate.
5. Individuals participating in Next Gen student ministry indoor gatherings are required to follow the current medical/food guidelines (see #1 above). **For outdoor activities, once students are practicing 6+ feet physical distance, masks may be taken off.** It is the responsibility of the Next Gen leaders to oversee these practices.
6. All group leaders are asked to watch the Medical Advisory Team (MAT) safety video, to be familiar with the list of Covid-19 symptoms, and to help shepherd their groups toward safe practices.
7. We recommend (but do not require) that those over sixty-five, those with previous existing conditions, and those with children under two (a group for which there has been minimal careful study), stay home. If an individual has questions about his/her own risk level, or that of their children, they should consult their physician.
8. As with all gatherings those who have new covid-like symptoms, or known exposure to an individual with the virus, should not participate in any in-person gatherings (even if they have tested negative, as tests are not fully reliable). For Sunday morning worship and Next Gen gatherings, people with these symptoms or exposure cannot participate.
Screening questions:
-Do you have a NEW cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pains, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or new loss of taste or smell within the last 14 days?
-Have you been in direct contact with another person with known Covid-19 in the last 14 days?
9. The MAT anticipates the number of total cases to grow, especially as the opportunity to be outside decreases in the fall. We will continue to monitor the situation and may move back into more restrictive guidelines.
10. While we are working to minimize the risk of exposure, we cannot completely eliminate that possibility. Those who gather with others in any space need to assess the risks and determine what is best in light of their particular situation.

Worship Guidelines

1. Use the outdoors whenever possible for worship gatherings.
2. When gathering for worship, all participants must follow the three most important medical guidelines to minimize the spread of covid while on campus (i.e., wearing masks, physical distancing, and regular hand washing/hand sanitizing, etc.). Additionally, no food or beverages will be served. Water may be brought by participants if needed.
3. People with these symptoms or exposure cannot participate.

Screening questions:

-Do you have a NEW cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pains, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or new loss of taste or smell within the last 14 days?

-Have you been in direct contact with another person with known Covid-19 in the last 14 days?

4. All worship leaders (vocalists, band members, pastors, tech team) are encouraged to exercise particular care in their daily life outside of worship and to take steps to reduce their own and their family's exposure as a way of honoring and protecting others. Additionally, they must self-assess for symptoms and remove themselves from participation if they answer either of the screening questions noted above in the affirmative:
5. When the congregation is present, the fewest possible number of vocalists should be used. Vocalists will be placed behind a Plexiglas screen, approximately thirty to thirty-five feet from the front row. Similarly, it is recommended that the pastor preach from the middle of the platform (twenty-five to thirty feet from front row) and behind a screen.

Wedding Guidelines

Weddings are unofficial Covenant events. The following guidelines will be observed for couples who want to use the grounds for their ceremony:

1. Weddings may take place in the sanctuary, providing space for up to 90 participants, and will be conducted consistent with current Sunday morning worship guidelines.
2. Weddings may take place outdoors. If you are interested in an indoor wedding, please contact Radonna Fiorini. Radonna will contact Jennie Jones for review and approval by the MAT, Travis Overstreet for the Worship Arts Ministry, and Jerry Miller for the Facilities Team.
3. Abide by the Governor's limits on event attendance.
4. All guests will be asked to wear masks. Pastor, singers, and the wedding party are asked to use their discretion regarding masks. We recommend singers and the pastor be mic'ed to limit aerosol projection and the wedding party practice physical distancing as much as possible.
5. All wedding participants (vocalists, pastor, wedding party, bride and groom) are encouraged to exercise particular care during the two weeks before the wedding to limit possible exposure. Additionally, they must self-assess for symptoms and remove themselves from participation if they answer either of these questions in the affirmative:
Do you have a NEW cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pains, headache, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or new loss of taste or smell within the last 14 days?
Have you been in direct contact with another person with known Covid-19 in the last 14 days?
6. Guests will provide their own lawn chairs where they will sit for the event and eat their meal (if a meal is served). Food will be brought to guests.
7. Use indoor restrooms. Cleaning supplies will be available in the restrooms. Guests will be encouraged to clean surfaces before and after using the facilities.

Memorial Service Guidelines

The following guidelines will be observed for conducting Memorial Services:

1. We will continue to offer services through funeral homes, or small gatherings and services at homes or the gravesite.
2. On-campus services in the sanctuary will be conducted consistent with current Sunday morning worship guidelines, providing space for up to 90 participants.
3. On-campus outdoor services will be conducted consistent with our current wedding guidelines.