

HARBOR CHURCH COVID19 RECOMMENDATIONS

UPDATED 6.4.2020

RISKS:

According to the CDC, Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person, the symptoms of which can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.¹ Also, according to the CDC guidelines, you can become infected from respiratory droplets in the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.² The virus can be dangerous to anyone, but especially the elderly and those with underlying conditions.³

Thus, by being a part of the activities on these premises (Harbor Church), you are taking upon yourself the risk of being infected. While Harbor Church has put in place protective measures, we cannot guarantee that you will not be infected. We urge you to take appropriate the following individual precautions against these risks.

PRECAUTIONS

For Members/Guests:

Based on CDC guidelines for faith-based organizations⁴, we urge all who are on the premises the following recommendations:

- Maintain good hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- 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.
- Whenever soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Limit physical contact (e.g., shaking hands, hugging, or kissing) as much as possible.
- Strongly recommend wearing facial coverings at all times.
- Any who are feeling ill to stay at home, and if someone feels ill during activities on the premises to remove themselves to limit the possibility of exposure

On Premises Precautions Taken:

The following is based on CDC guidelines⁵, applied locally to our church context:

- Sanctuary will be well ventilated with outdoor air
- Communion will be pre-packaged
- Bulletins will be laid out on the seats each week (to limit contact) or can be printed at home and brought to the service

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>. Accessed 6/4/2020

² Ibid. Accessed 6/4/2020

³ See CDC, "People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness" <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

⁴ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Ffaith-based.html

⁵ Ibid. Accessed 6/4/2020

- All offering can be placed in a secure box at the back of the sanctuary instead of being taken up during the service or may be mailed to: Harbor Church, PO Box 4025, Mooresville NC 28117
- Seats will be arranged to promote physical distance
- There will be regular cleaning/disinfecting of common surfaces
- Urge congregating after the service to happen outdoors (weather permitting)
- No nursery or Sunday school classes
- We will continue live streaming as well as a short-ranged FM transmitted audio of the service for those who cannot or elect not to come into the indoor worship service

Plan for those who become sick:

The following is based on CDC guidelines⁶.

- Anyone who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 during hours of operation will be directed to classroom 101 on the ground floor to be transported either home or a medical facility. If a child, children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Anyone who becomes sick at our facility may either transport themselves home/medical facility or we will make reasonable efforts to help them find a family member willing to transport them. If neither of those are an option or if the illness is serious, an officer of the church will call 911 and arrange for an ambulance.
- We will 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.
- We 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.
- We will close off areas used by the sick person and do not use the area until after cleaning and disinfection. We will ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- We 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.

COMMUNICATION

Copies of this document will be posted in the foyer of the Sanctuary building, on our website (www.harborchurch.org), and emailed to the congregation. It will be available to be reviewed by any who wish.

UPDATES

This document will be reviewed by members of the session every two weeks to ensure it is compatible with CDC guidelines as well as state and local policies

⁶ Ibid. Accessed 6/4/2020