



## NOVEMBER 2020 COVID UPDATE

### **PURPOSE**

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As things have progressed, we have sought to discern how best we can live out our mission as a church during these uncertain days to know Christ and make him known. We have continued to keep a close eye on data and the evolving understanding of COVID-19. As stated in earlier documents given to the church, all along the way, we have done our best to:

- Follow Jesus Christ first and foremost as the chief shepherd of Fellowship Church.
- Be biblically faithful to clear commands of Scripture for the church.
- "Be quick to listen..." to our members and fellow elders. (James 1:19)
- Honor and submit to our governing authorities. (Romans 13:1-7)
- "Care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." (Acts 20:28)

We have come to a point in the road where we feel led by the Holy Spirit to make some changes. There are several reasons that we have decided to make some shifts to several policies and expectations for various ministries at Fellowship Church.

- Increased cases in our city and county.
- Ways that COVID-19 has affected our church family and those we love.
- Updated research that shows that most like-minded churches in the city of Louisville are operating with greater restrictions than we are.
- Our desire to do our part to protect the name of Jesus and gospel of Jesus from unneeded accusations about churches spreading COVID-19.
- Concerns raised by staff, members, and elders that we could be making a better "good faith effort" in honoring the guidelines in place for houses of worship.

### **WHAT IS NOT CHANGING?**

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- We have limited capacity to the 50% guideline for houses of worship.
- We **REQUIRE** anyone who is sick, has a fever, or had known exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days to stay home.
- We will continue to leave doors opened and make sure HVAC is circulating air.
- We will continue to clean/disinfect frequently used surfaces before and after our services.
- We will continue to make masks and sanitizer available.
- We continue to urge parents to stay with your children.
- We continue to discourage hugging or shaking hands and encourage washing hands.
- We continue to ask that higher risk persons consider their risk and come if they so desire. The CDC describes higher risk individuals as those who: are 65 years and older, live in a care facility or nursing home, have chronic lung issues or asthma, have serious heart conditions, are immunocompromised, have diabetes, have chronic liver kidney disease, have liver disease, or are severely obese (BMI over 40).



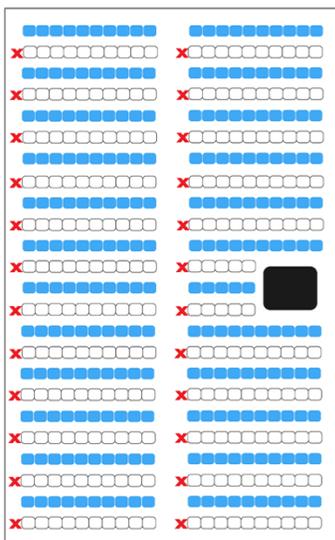
- We encourage everyone to get information on COVID-19 and how to protect yourself and others from the spread by visiting <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

### UPDATED PRACTICES

- Our **9am** service will continue to be a "Masks Required" service. We do plan to offer Fellowship KIDS for Infants through pre-K beginning on November 22.
- We will still offer **livestream** of our 10:45 service in an effort to allow those who are unable to attend due to medical vulnerabilities to be a part of our corporate worship.
- Our **10:45am** service was previously a "Masks Optional" service. As stated verbally in our services on November 1, we have decided to increase restrictions for the 10:45. Starting on November 8, we will require masks while entering and exiting the building and inside when you can't socially distance. We will have an overflow area reserved in the back of the sanctuary that will be more open seating where we will ask that you keep your masks on throughout the service since it will be less likely to socially distance. If you want to ensure that you will have a seat where you can take your mask off once seated, we encourage you to arrive early. It is likely that those who will arrive late may need to sit in the overflow area towards the back where masks will be required throughout the service or sit in the lobby/cafeteria. We'll have signage and ushers to help.
- For our **mid-sized gatherings** like worship and prayer nights and vision nights, we will require masks to be worn when entering and exiting the building and when you can't socially distance. In addition, we will set up an area of the sanctuary that will be "Masks Required" so that members who wish to be surrounded by others wearing masks can do so.

### 9AM SERVICE

✔ Childcare! (coming 11/22) 🙌

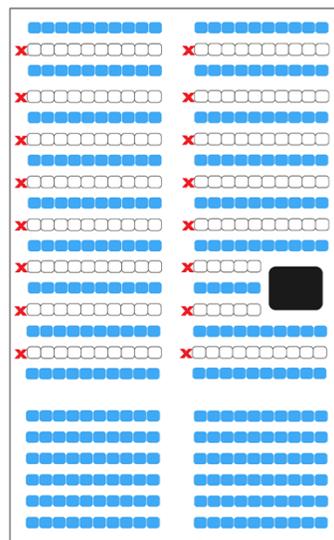


#### ALL SEATS

- ✔ Distanced seating
- ✔ Masks required

### 10:45AM SERVICE

✔ Childcare! 🙌



#### FRONT SECTION

- ✔ Distanced seating
- ✔ Masks optional while seated socially-distanced

#### BACK SECTION

- ✔ Open/overflow seating
- ✔ Masks required



## HOW CAN I HELP?

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- **Strive for unity.** Andy preached a great sermon on Sunday. If you haven't been able to listen yet, I encourage you do to so. He took us to Philippians 1:27 and challenged us to "Stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel." The gospel of Jesus Christ empowers us to stand united *EVEN WHEN* we don't agree. We are aware that some think that these changes go too far and others think these changes don't go far enough. This kind of diversity is evident even on our elder team. Yet we stand united. And we humbly ask you to stand with us.
- **Serve.** We have current needs for Fellowship Kids workers in the 9am and ushers for the 10:45. Reach out to us via our contact pages to volunteer.
- **Consider the 9am service.** We have plenty of room to mask up and socially distance at our 9am service. This will free up room in the 10:45 where it's getting harder and harder to provide socially distanced seating. We hope that with Fellowship Kids launching for 9am on November 22, more people will see 9am as an attraction option.
- If attending the 10:45, **arrive early** and/or **consider sitting in the overflow area** with a mask on throughout the service to allow those who really want to take their mask off once seated the seats and space to do so. We also think this seating section will serve our single community and those who want to sit closer and don't mind masking up.
- **Pray for and be patient with your elders.** We don't make these changes lightly and know that these changes may not be what you wanted to see happen. We are doing our very best to lead our dear church through this season in a way that honors King Jesus.

## CONTINUE MONITORING

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We will continue to monitor the situation and expect to make in course corrections as needed. These policies will be reevaluated based on any of the following circumstances:

- A government mandate to cancel worship services.
- Community wide churches and institutions canceling worship gatherings.
- Local hospitals experiencing significant pressure and being overrun with COVID patients.
- A positive test among our staff or potential of outbreak.
- Revised guidelines given to houses of worship.

We continue to look forward to the day when we will all be able to worship without restrictions. Until then, thank you for striving for unity with us.

Sincerely,

Todd Pellowe  
On behalf of the Elders of Fellowship Church