

**SOUTH ELKHORN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
HEALTHY AT CHURCH TASK FORCE
UPDATED GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS RELATED
TO INDOOR ACTIVITIES AND INDOOR WORSHIP**

The “Healthy at Church” Task Force has been tasked with assisting the Cabinet with making determinations regarding how to safely reopen church facilities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Task Force consists of Morganne Brackney (Chair), Senior Minister Michael Swartzentruber, Associate Minister Holly Fuqua, Jacob Walbourn, Diana McKenzie, Aden Randles, and Phyl Wigglesworth. The Task Force met at least monthly since mid-May, 2020. It is the recommendation of the Task Force that the Cabinet adopt the following policies:

1. The Healthy at Church Task Force recommends guidelines, but the Cabinet adopts these guidelines. The Task Force is also available to offer clarifications or assist with training. The Task Force can be contacted by emailing healthy@southelkhorncc.org. These guidelines should be posted and accessible for all church members and visitors to consult.
2. Statement of policy: we recognize that not everyone in our congregation has had the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We further recognize that some individuals may choose not to receive the vaccine. Employees and volunteers of South Elkhorn shall not inquire as to anyone’s individual vaccination status; however, in the spirit of Christian love, we call on everyone to adhere to the guidelines applicable to them based on their vaccination status in order to protect those that would wish, but are unable as of yet, to have received a vaccine. We also further recognize that vaccinated individuals may independently elect to continue wearing a mask or engaging in physical/social distancing. We encourage all members and guests to engage in activities in the manner they feel is most safe for them based on their individual circumstances and determinations. We intend to adhere to all state and federal guidance regarding the best practices for maintaining the safety of our members and guests. As this guidance evolves, these guidelines will likewise be amended.
3. Effective immediately, in-person, indoor activities are permitted to resume subject to the following conditions (as further specified herein), which shall be applicable at events occurring on church property:
 - a. Mask usage: pursuant to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), members and guests who have completed the COVID-19 vaccine process (that is, at least fourteen (14) days have passed since receipt of the final dose of the vaccine) shall not be required to wear a mask. Individuals who have not received the vaccine or who have not completed the vaccination process shall wear a mask while the state mask mandate remains in place. Should the mask mandate be repealed, masking shall no longer be required.
 - b. Physical/social distancing: Pursuant to guidance from the CDC, physical distancing shall not be required for members and guests that have completed the COVID-19 vaccine process. Individuals who have not received the vaccine or who have not completed the vaccination process shall continue to physically distance themselves from others. “Physical distancing” means six (6) feet of distance

between individuals. The Worship Team is encouraged to arrange any space utilized for Worship in such a manner that physical distancing may still be achieved. Groups are likewise encouraged to do the same.

- c. Pre-registration: individuals shall continue to pre-register their planned attendance at church events and events occurring on church property. The Worship Team may determine, in their sole discretion, what information should be obtained as part of pre-registration, and when pre-registration should be discontinued.
4. Guidelines for Worship Services (Indoor and Outdoor)
- a. All attendees should engage in a health self-assessment prior to attending worship services. Individuals should not attend worship if they:
 - i. Have been diagnosed with COVID-19;
 - ii. Are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, including but not limited to cough and fever, or have experienced such symptoms within the last seven (7) days;
 - iii. Have been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last fourteen (14) days, unless the attendee has completed the vaccination process;
 - iv. Are subject to a quarantine order or have been recommended to quarantine by a local health department; or
 - v. Have a temperature of more than one-hundred (100) degrees.
 - b. The Worship Team may determine, in their discretion, the number and frequency of worship services. It is affirmatively concluded that the Worship Team may elect to hold only one (1) indoor service per week should they so choose. The Worship Team may also determine, in their discretion, whether services should be held outdoors or indoors.
 - c. Worship & Wonder and Nursery services shall be made available in the discretion of the Discipleship Team. . As children under the age of twelve (12) years are not currently eligible for vaccination, all children aged three (3) years and older shall wear a mask. Also, any adult participating in Worship & Wonder or Nursery shall also wear a mask.
 - d. Communion is permitted; however, communion shall be provided in pre-packaged individual servings.
 - e. Refreshments/communal food and drink shall not be permitted at this time.
 - f. Bulletins may be offered in the discretion of the Worship Team, and are permitted, but not required, to be passed out to attendees.
 - g. Offerings shall be permitted to be collected; however, offering plates should not be passed during worship services. A collection station shall be established for members and guests to be able to deliver their tithes and offerings.
 - h. A greeting time/the shaking of hands shall not be a component of the service at this time. Attendees are advised to exercise caution in physically touching individuals that are not members of their immediate household.
 - i. Unvaccinated individuals, as well as those that are immunocompromised or otherwise vulnerable to COVID-19 may attend, or not, in their sole discretion; however, the ability to engage in worship through digital means shall continue for those that may choose not to return to indoor worship at this time.

- j. Congregational singing is permitted. It is recommended, but not required, that such singing be of limited duration following the immediate resumption of indoor worship.
 - k. Hand sanitizer shall be made available. Members are encouraged to bring sanitizer from home.
 - l. Restroom facilities shall be available, but it is encouraged that crowds not congregate within the restrooms.
5. Guidelines for Sunday School
 - a. The indoor or outdoor meeting of Sunday School classes is permitted.
 - b. Indoor space for Sunday School classes should be reserved in advance, and shall be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - c. Sunday School classes with unvaccinated attendees or vulnerable attendees are encouraged to continue to engage digitally or to otherwise provide means for those that are not comfortable attending to continue to participate.
 - d. Refreshments are not permitted to be offered at this time.
6. Guidelines for other groups affiliated with South Elkhorn/South Elkhorn events
 - a. Groups affiliated with South Elkhorn are permitted to meet in-person and indoors in their discretion.
 - b. Groups shall be subject to the same guidelines as applicable to worship and Sunday School, subject to the following exceptions:
 - i. Use of church facilities for all groups other than Sunday School classes shall be requested through the Church Administrator at least two (2) weeks in advance.
 - ii. Refreshments and food and drink shall be permitted; however, if refreshments or food and drink are provided, all attendees, regardless of vaccination status, shall engage in physical distancing while actively eating or drinking.
7. Guidelines for groups not affiliated with South Elkhorn
 - a. Groups may request to utilize South Elkhorn facilities via submitting a request, at least two (2) weeks in advance to the Church Administrator.
 - b. The Executive Committee of the Cabinet shall have the sole discretion regarding whether external groups shall be permitted to meet, and may authorize or not authorize usage of church property for any reason or no reason.
 - c. The Executive Team may revoke permission for the use of the facility by external groups for noncompliance with these guidelines.
 - d. Groups shall be subject to the same restrictions as those applicable to worship services and Sunday School classes.
 - e. A maximum of two (2) external groups are permitted to meet per day.
 - f. Refreshments shall not be provided if the event is occurring indoors.
8. Guidelines for convening with ministers/staff
 - a. Meetings with ministers and staff are permitted.
 - b. Individuals meeting with ministers and/or staff:

- i. Shall schedule the meeting in advance if at all practicable. Drop-in meetings are strongly discouraged.
 - ii. Shall wear a mask if requested by the minister/staff member.
 - iii. Shall maintain physical distance if requested by the minister/staff member.
 - iv. Shall not attend if they:
 1. Have been diagnosed with COVID-19.
 2. Are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, including but not limited to cough and fever, or have experienced such symptoms within the last seven (7) days.
 3. Have been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last fourteen (14) days, unless the attendee has completed the COVID-19 vaccination process.
 4. Are subject to a quarantine order or have been recommended to quarantine by a local health department.
 5. Have a temperature of more than one-hundred (100) degrees.
9. Little Elks is permitted to meet, provided that it comports with all guidelines issued by the CDC and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Where these requirements differ, the more restrictive guidelines will govern.
10. These Guidelines must be approved by the Cabinet, and shall remain in effect until amended or repealed. In emergent situations, the Executive Team of the Cabinet may authorize amendments to these Guidelines; however, such amendments must then be ratified by the Cabinet at its next meeting or they shall become void.