

**SOUTH ELKHORN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
HEALTHY AT CHURCH TASK FORCE
HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES**

The “Healthy at Church” Task Force was created in May 2020 and was tasked with assisting the Ministry Cabinet in navigating 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 from May 2020 until May 2021. The final recommendation of the Healthy at Church Task Force is as follows:

1. Statement of policy: We recognize the seriousness and continuing risk of COVID-19, even as case incidents have decreased and vaccinations have increased. We further recognize that not everyone in our congregation has had the opportunity or has the ability to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and that some individuals may choose not to receive the vaccine at this time or at any future time. 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 recommendations 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 engage 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, and for other members/guests to respect those individual choices and not to make assumptions based on those choices. We believe it is appropriate for members/guests to adhere to all state and federal guidance regarding the best practices for maintaining the safety of our members and guests.

2. The following shall apply to all events on South Elkhorn property:
 - a. The following are requirements:
 - i. Anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or who is subject to a quarantine order by a governmental authority, must not enter the property.
 - ii. Attendees should engage in a personal health assessment prior to entering the property. Individuals should not attend if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (including cough and fever).
 - iii. Any staff member or volunteer that works with children or other groups ineligible for vaccination must continue to wear masks while working with those groups.
 - iv. Other ways to engage in worship, including specifically (but not limited to) providing the ability to engage digitally, shall be maintained.
 - b. The following is encouraged, but not required:
 - i. The Worship Team may provide areas during worship services where individuals may continue to engage in physical/social distancing based on their comfort level and/or vaccination status. “Physical/social distancing” means six (6) feet of space between individuals, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”).

- ii. The Worship Team may make materials available, including disposable masks and hand sanitizer, prior to and during worship services.
 - iii. The Worship Team may, in their discretion, determine when certain components of the service may resume or whether any should be permanently altered, including but not limited to: greeting time, children's sermon/moment, communion, and passing of offering plates.
3. In-person, indoor worship is permitted. Outdoor worship is also permitted.
4. Sunday School is permitted to meet in person and indoors. Sunday School classes are encouraged, but not required, to provide alternative means of engagement for those that may not feel comfortable attending in person at this time.
5. Small groups (defined as fifty (50) attendees or fewer) affiliated with the church are permitted to meet indoors or outdoors. Permission to have such events must be requested from the Church Administrator as was done prior to the pandemic.
6. Large groups affiliated with the church and church-sponsored events involving more than fifty (50) individuals are permitted to have events indoors or outdoors provided such events receive approval from the Executive Team in advance. Such permission should be requested at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting/event. Permission for these events shall be granted or denied in the sole discretion of the Executive Team.
7. Groups not affiliated with the church are permitted to request use of the facilities as was permitted prior to the pandemic. These requests must be submitted to the Church Administrator and will be evaluated by the Executive Team. Requests must be made at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the requested date. Permission for these events shall be granted or denied in the sole discretion of the Executive Team.
8. Ministers and staff may engage in in-person meetings in their own discretion. Ministers and staff are permitted to require individuals meeting with them in-person to engage in any health measures they deem personally necessary, including but not limited to mask usage or physical/social distancing.
9. Little Elks is permitted to meet, provided, however, that compliance with any state or national requirements shall be required.
10. Refreshments are permitted at all events. Those in charge of events should consider how to serve food and beverages in an inclusive manner that accommodates health concerns, including avoiding the direct handling of food, the use of gloves, providing tongs/serving implements, etc.
11. It is anticipated that these Guidelines will not be amended any further. However, the Executive Team may adopt, on an interim basis, any emergency measures recommended by the Task Force or otherwise suggested based on an escalation of case counts, emergences of new virus variants, and/or new state or national mandates. Such measures

must then be ratified by the Cabinet at its next meeting or they shall become void. Absent action by the Cabinet, all requirements expire on December 31, 2021.