

Rochester Assembly COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Occupancy for all worship gatherings shall be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines laid out by the Center for Disease Control, Minnesota Department of Health and the State of Minnesota.

WELLNESS REQUEST:

STAFF, SERVE TEAMS & CONGREGANTS - We ask that all who enter the RA facility respect the health and well being of one another. If you are ill, have any symptoms of illness, or have been exposed to any individual who is ill or who has symptoms of illness within the past 14 days, we ask that please refrain from entering the RA facility. We invite you to join us in worship via our online experience. Should you need to cough or sneeze please cover your mouth, then wash and sanitize you hands immediately. If at anytime you feel ill, please inform an RA staff member and exit the facility immediately.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

ONLINE REGISTRATION – In person experiences are by online registration only. Every member of your family (including children) must register.

CAPACITY – The capacities shown in each location are in accordance with the CDC's recommendations for Stay Safe Minnesota. We will closely monitor registration and will add opportunities to gather in accordance with these guidelines.

ASSIGNED SEATING – When you arrive for the experience you are registered for you'll be greeted, offered hand sanitizer, given a seat assignment, and directed to your seat.

SOCIAL DISTANCING - In accordance with guidelines we ask that you maintain social distancing standards of six feet between non-family individuals. **Please refrain from physical greetings such as hugging or handshaking.** We also ask that individuals refrain from loitering or socializing in public spaces. When the worship experience is complete you will be released from your seat by rows and asked to immediately vacate the facility.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

KIDS – All children must stay with their guardians during this phase of reopening.

RISK – Rochester Assembly is committed to doing all we can to provide a safe and clean environment. However, it is impossible to be 100% germ free. When attending this worship experience you acknowledge and accept the responsibility that you are doing so at your own risk. RA is not responsible for any exposure to Covid-19 you may be exposed to while attending one of our experiences. Please be advised that potentially strong smelling sanitizers and cleaning agents will be used and may be an issue for those with aroma sensitivities. Please use discretion when deciding whether or not you and your loved ones should join us in person, or wait and join us online.

Willmar AG Guidelines

Hey AG Friends & Family!

We are so looking forward to seeing many of you again on June 7th. A COVID-19 Preparedness Plan is being finalized and will be available for viewing on our website. It will also be posted in our buildings. Much of what is written, in the plan, is legal language to satisfy the authorities and insurance companies, not you. Instead we offer “Ten Things You Need To Know For Re-Gathering.”

We have changed our service times and added a third to hopefully get everyone into a live service.

You can choose between 8:00am, 9:30am, or 11:00am. With a max of only 250 people allowed in the sanctuary, we were concerned not everyone would fit in two services. That meant using overflow rooms with video. It didn't seem right for people to come back after all this time, only to keep looking at a screen. We want to see you! We will still have a video alternative ready, if necessary, but we wanted to do everything we could to prevent that.

Prior to the service, you must reserve the number of seats needed in a pew.

We want to maximize our limited seating capability. Without pre-registration, we could have two less-filled services and one where we are forced to put many people into overflow (or even worse, turn people away). To reserve the number of seats your household needs, go to our website www.willmarag.org and click on the button that says “regather” and follow the prompts. If you are not online, call the church office at 320-235-2529 and we will reserve seats for you. Registration opens Mondays at 3:00pm for the upcoming Sunday. Registration for Sunday, June 7th opens on Monday, June 1st at 3:00pm.

Children are required to stay with their parents at all times.

At this time, no kids' ministry can be provided. Service content will be as family friendly as possible and kept to an hour or less. Bathrooms will be available.

You may have to wait in your car when arriving.

We will be seating and dismissing as ushers do at a wedding. One row at a time, to maintain proper distancing while entering and exiting. As such, it will take longer than normal to clear the building. To avoid congestion by the doors, please wait until our parking lot greeting team gives you clearance to leave your vehicle. As you approach the building, several highly visible greeters will be outside with iPads to confirm your reservation. If they are occupied, please wait a minimum of six feet away. This check-in is simple and should go swiftly.

You will be seated by an usher in the sanctuary.

Again, similar to wedding protocol. Until we all have more experience in this new setting, allowing people to find their own seats could result in great confusion and delay. Each section will have an usher who will escort you as you enter, and dismiss you from the sanctuary. We will be using every other pew, with six feet between households sitting in the same pew. Smile with your eyes, wave and say hello. We know this will be hard for some, but please don't hug or touch others during this season.

Masks will be required at the 8:00am service; optional at the 9:30am and 11:00am services.

We realize there are strong feelings about this issue and statistics and experts to justify each position. Our goal is to find the win/win and we are fully committed to the enforcement of the physical distancing policies stated above. This is our first attempt to provide one service where those who are more vulnerable can attend a live service with others who share the same desire to wear protective masks. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided upon request. Those serving in all three services will be wearing masks.

A cleaning team will be active throughout the morning.

Although the CDC keeps changing their position on the threat of catching the virus from surfaces, we will err on the side of caution and be vigilant in sanitizing door handles, bathrooms, and pew backs. All furniture will be removed from the lobby and paper materials from the sanctuary. Please BYOBible, notebook, and pen as we cannot pass out materials at this time. Volunteers with gloves will have laid new offering envelopes on tables in the lobby. Offering receptacles will be located for easy access as you exit the building. We are grateful for the continued level of giving that has transpired. We are so proud of you!

We will continue our online presence.

In fact, it will expand on Facebook and Church Online along with our service times. If for any reason, you do not feel comfortable attending our in-person service, we encourage you to either host or attend a watch party with friends/family.

If you have had any of the following symptoms during the week, please worship with us online:

- Fever over 100
- Cough or sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Contact with anyone confirmed to have
- COVID-19 in the past 14 days

Week two will probably not look like week one.

We are learning like everyone else, and appreciate your patience. We hope restrictions will lessen in the near future, but we will not compromise your safety. Constructive feedback is always welcome, as you may see things we don't. We want to provide a spiritually significant experience while keeping everyone as safe as possible.

That's a lot of change from how we normally function on a Sunday. Fortunately, the most important thing hasn't changed. Jesus Christ. He is "*the same yesterday and today and forever.*" *Hebrews 13:8*. You are encouraged not to focus on what has changed, but on what...on Who...hasn't. Hope to see you on June 7th!

Pastor Keith & The AG Team

Other churches to check out:

<https://goodhope.ag/im-new/plan-to-meet-again/>

<https://thewaterschurch.net/welcome-back/>

<http://centerpointml.org/bigtop>