

## Greenville Alliance Church Safety Procedure

We find ourselves in the midst of a worldwide health emergency one that none of us expected, have been through, or could have prepared. In all times, but especially more so in unprecedented times, we need to look to God and the guidance He has provided us through His love letter, that being Scripture found in the Bible. While there is no mention of a worldwide pandemic in scripture we do find principles and guidance to follow during uncertain times.

The first of these is love. Jesus directly tells us there is no greater commandment than to love God above all else and love our neighbor as we love ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). As followers of Christ, it is our command to love others which requires action as John wrote, "let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18). We prove we love others by doing what we can to help keep them safe. Even when it is difficult, even when doing so requires us to make sacrifices, even when doing so may make us uncomfortable and even if we do not believe what we are doing will make any difference because by doing so proves to others we care about their safety and also proves to the world that we are true disciples of Jesus (John 13:35).

Another principle we can glean from scripture is to obey the authority that has been placed over us. Peter tells us we are to "submit to all human authority...Respect everyone, and love the family of believers" (1 Peter 2:13-17). In Romans, Paul echoes Peter by writing, "Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God" (Romans 13:1). The author of Hebrews also wrote, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls and will give an account for their work" (Hebrews 13:17). Finally, we find these words in Titus 3:1-2: "Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone." It is clear from these passages that as Christ followers we are to listen and obey those in authority over us, even if we do not agree with or like their decisions. They are placed over us by God and we are to humbly submit to their leadership, unless they ask us to sin and go against scripture.

Which leads us to GAC's mission statement; Love God, Love Others, Reach and Teach Others To Do The Same. If we truly love God, we must love others! By adopting this safety plan we are showing our love for others. We must take action that proves we love others. In the times we find ourselves, following the guidelines set before us will not only show we submit to God's will but also, show others how to submit to God's will. In doing so, we will teach others how to love God and also to love others the way Jesus loves us.

This procedure was compiled with the insight gleaned from scripture as referenced above, guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health, Western PA C&MA District Office and Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company. This procedure will be enforced to ensure all services will operate in the safest possible manner and that GAC's mission is followed.

## **General Building Entry:**

1. If you are feeling sick in any way we encourage you to join us for worship through the on-line service.
2. Unless a medical reason prevents you, please wear some form of face covering such as a mask or face shield and do not remove it until seated. If possible, continue to wear face covering during gathering times. Replace face covering before leaving your seat to move to another part of the building.
3. You are welcome to join us for services and classes 15 minutes before gathering times. This will allow time for volunteers and staff to be in position to serve and make sure the facilities are ready for activities.
4. One greeter will remain in the lobby during all service times to welcome anyone arriving late. A greeter will also record attendance for the purpose of contact tracing in the event an attendee contracts COVID-19.
5. Please refrain from shaking hands, hugs or other human to human contact unless it is with someone of your own family.
6. Whenever possible remain six feet from others while inside our facility.
7. Sanitize hands as soon as you enter any of the buildings using the touchless hand sanitizing stations located just inside each entrance.
8. Sections of seating will be blocked off to help guide our families to social distance. We ask you to sit with your family.
9. Sanitize hands on the way out of the facility and keep face covered until you are seated in your vehicle.

## **Self-Reporting of COVID-19 Infection:**

If you have been actively attending GAC services or activities and find out you have tested positive for COVID-19, please notify the church office so we can inform your fellow attendees. We understand your privacy is important so only a general statement would be given unless you give permission to share your name.

## **Children's Ministry**

The following procedure will be followed for all children attending and volunteer staff during Sunday School and all other children's activities.

1. Face coverings (masks/shield) will be required for all children unless they are seated in their social distanced classroom. Face coverings (masks/shield) will be required for all parents and volunteer staff to be in place before entering the Children's Ministry area (before coming down stairs) and continued to be worn until leaving the Children's Ministry area unless a medical reason prevents one from wearing a face covering.
2. During the check in process:
  - a. The parent will be asked if their child has any signs of sickness, (Fever, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath). If a child is found to have any signs of sickness they will be asked not to attend until signs are gone for a minimum of 24 hours.
  - b. Parents will also provide the location of the Sunday School class they are attending in case they need to be contacted.
  - c. All children and volunteer staff will have temperature taken and recorded as a way to ensure the health and safety of all involved in the Children's Ministry. If

temperature is found to be higher than 100.3°, the individual will be asked to return home.

3. Each child will go directly to their classroom after check in. There will be no large group teaching, activities or worship. Everything will be done within their classroom.
4. Upon entering the classroom, all children and volunteer staff will sanitize hands using the dispenser located just inside each classroom.
5. While in the classroom, all volunteer staff will wear a face covering. They will also maintain a distance of six feet from each other if at all possible. Hand holding, hugging, fist bumps, high fives or any other physical contact between children or adults and children is to be restricted to siblings or parents with their own children.
6. Children will not share common items to participate in crafts, activities or teaching illustrations. Ex. Crayons, Markers, Balls, Instruments.
7. Children will be given individual "craft boxes" that contain "their own" basic craft supplies (markers, crayons, scissors, glue, etc.). Their names will be placed on each container for identification of their supplies to use for any craft.
8. After class, these containers will be placed in the "Needs Cleaned" container for the cleaning crew to sanitize the outside of each individual container used that week.
9. If any of those items or any other supplies that are reusable are touched by anyone or in any way during a class they must be left in a "Needs Cleaned" container. Those items left in the "Needs Cleaned" container will be disinfected and returned to the "Ready To Use" container.
10. If a child shows any sign of sickness during Sunday School, they will be removed from their classroom and the person who checked them in will be asked to take the child home. The class assistant will sit with the child in the Children's Ministry office until the Hall Monitor returns with their parent.
11. Parents pickup their child by returning to the Children's Ministry Area and waiting in line 6 feet from each other. Their children will be brought to them one family at a time.
12. Parents are asked to not linger in the Children's Ministry Area to help with the flow of traffic. During nice weather exiting will be possible out the doors off of the Children's Ministry lobby.
13. The Nursery will not be open for use at this time due to COVID-19 safety concerns. Changing stations are available in lobby restrooms.

## **Student Ministry**

The following procedure will be followed for all students attending and volunteer staff during Sunday School and all other student activities.

1. Face coverings will be required for all students, parents and volunteer staff to be in place before entering the Student Ministry Area (ALC Building) and continued to be worn until leaving the Student Ministry Area. Our classroom sizes do not allow for proper social distancing guidelines so face coverings are required unless a medical reason prevents one from wearing a face covering.
2. Students will stop upon entrance into the building to sanitize hands before continuing on to the check-in line.
3. Students are to keep a minimum of six feet apart while waiting to be checked in. There will be markers on the floor to help with distance control.
4. During the check in process:

- a. The student will be asked if they have any signs of sickness, (Fever, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath). If a student is found to have any signs of sickness they will be asked not to attend until signs are gone for a minimum of 24 hours.
  - b. All students and volunteer staff will have temperature taken and recorded as a way to ensure the health and safety of all involved in the Student Ministry. If temperature is found to be higher than 100.3°, the individual will be asked to return home.
5. Students will then proceed directly to their respective classrooms.
  6. Upon entering the classroom, all students and volunteer staff will sanitize hands using the dispenser located inside each classroom.
  7. While in the classroom, all students and volunteer staff will wear a face covering. They will also maintain a distance of six feet from each other if at all possible. Hand holding, hugging, fist bumps, high fives or any other physical contact between students or adults and students is to be restricted to siblings or parents with their own children.
  8. Students will not share common items to participate in the class. (Such as pens, pencils, clipboards, Bibles, balls, game controllers, game pieces)
  9. If any of those items or any other supplies that are reusable are touched by anyone or in any way during a class they must be left in a "Needs Cleaned" container. Those items left in the "Needs Cleaned" container will be disinfected and returned to the "Ready To Use" container.
  10. If a student shows any sign of sickness during Sunday School, they will be removed from their classroom and their parent or guardian will be asked to take the student home.
  11. Students should immediately leave the ALC building upon dismissal from class. They may not play catch, tag, foosball, or linger in the building.

### **Adult Sunday School and Other Ministries**

1. Face coverings are encouraged when social distancing is not possible in the classroom.
2. As you enter the classroom, stop and sanitize hands.
3. Attendance will be taken by name.
4. Please sanitize hands again as you leave class.

### **General Cleaning and Prep:**

1. There will be a weekly bulletin. Power for Living will be available.
2. Nothing in the pews
3. No self-serve coffee or food
4. Block off playgrounds
5. Library will be open. Please follow procedures posted on the door when using the library.
6. One person at the doors to open and close or leave propped open.
7. Clean all door handles, push bars, and bathroom fixtures that are touched. Worship Center/Sanctuary and general area will be cleaned before each service by the volunteer cleaning team following a detailed checklist.
8. Remove coat hangers
9. Have Disposable Masks to give out to those who do not bring their own.

10. Baby changing stations must be cleaned within 1 hour prior to service beginning and cleaning supplies must be provided for parents to use to clean before and after each use.
11. The offering container will be put on a table in the back of the Worship Center/Sanctuary like it is being used in the ALC.

*Adopted August 11, 2020*