June 11, 2020

Dear Highview Friends

As you might know, earlier this week the Premier of Ontario announced that most regions of the province, including Waterloo Region, would be allowed to move into stage 2 of reopening as of June 12- This includes places of worship!

**On Sunday June 21 Highview is going to open its doors for in-person services**! We are so excited to worship our God together in person! Hooray! We have missed each other over these past 3 months and are grateful for this opportunity to join together in loving God and love people in a way we have not been able to for some time.

 ***However, your health and safety remains our top priority.***

Please find below a list of policies and procedures we have put in place to help ensure the safety of those who attend live services in our building on Sunday June 21 and throughout the summer.

**Stay Home if you are ill or High Risk**

We would strongly recommend that those individuals in a high-risk category for contracting or suffering complications from COVID-19 consider staying home at this time. Services will be recorded and posted online after the fact for those unable to attend.

**30% Sanctuary Capacity**

Ontario Public Health Guidelines require limiting the number of people in our building to 30% of our sanctuary capacity. This means that Highview will be able to accommodate 54 people in our sanctuary.

**RSVP Ahead of Time**

You will be required to RSVP (to each service) ahead of time and electronically submit a release form (only once). This release form and RSVP will be delivered to you via the email address we have on file for you **on the Wednesday before each service.**

**Arrive NO EARLIER than 15 Minutes Before Service**

Best practice health and safety advice is that we minimize the amount of time people spend together inside. **You will be allowed into the building at 10:15, 15 minutes before our service begins, and asked to leave the building 15 minutes after the service ends**. If you wish to socialize with each other following the service (with physical distancing) we ask that you do so outside.

**Physical Distancing**

We will practice physical distancing of 2-meters (6ft) apart for people not in the same household. Pews will be marked and roped off to help facilitate this.

**No food service or children's programming yet**

There will be no children’s programming or food services at this time. Children may attend the service, though they will be asked to stay with their families for the duration. We have not forgotten you, families with young children! We are working on a plan for how to do this safely and will keep you posted.

**Arrows Designating Movement**

We will ask you to enter through the upper doors, follow the arrows for entering and exiting pews, and leave down the stairs, through the lower level doors. Those with mobility challenges will be seated in designated spots and may remain in their seats and leave through the upper doors

**Practice Respiratory, Hand and Cough/Sneeze Hygiene**

Hands should be washed regularly with soap and water. Alcohol-based hand-sanitizer will be available to you at the door as you enter. Additionally, please sneeze and cough into your elbow and avoid touching your face.

**Masks**

**Please note that singing is considered a “high-risk” activity, and yet is a central part of practicing our faith. It will feel strange and uncomfortable at first, but we ask that you please wear a mask, especially for the singing portion of the service.** You may bring your own cloth mask or disposable ones will be provided for you upon entry.

**Washrooms**

If possible, please use the washroom before coming to church. However, in an emergency, we ask that you use the Lysol wipes provided in the bathroom to sanitize the taps, flusher and door handles after each use. Please do not flush used wipes. Use trash can instead.

*I recognize that attending a larger gathering such as a church service puts me at a higher risk for contracting or spreading COVID-19 and other illnesses.*

*I have read and understood the above policies and procedures put in place to help ensure my safety and will abide by these procedures to the best of my ability while attending a service at Highview Community Church, until such time as these precautions are lifted.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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