

Guidelines for Services with Social Distancing

We are now able to meet with unlimited numbers. We must maintain social distancing and follow, to the best of our ability, the restrictions of the government of Alberta. Although there are no restrictions on the number of people allowed to attend church, we are only able to seat a certain number of people while still maintaining social distancing. Seating will be on a first come, first serve basis.

- We will be reopening the church for office hours effective immediately. Our office hours are Tuesday – Thursday 9am – Noon, 1pm – 4pm.
- We are open for Sunday services. There are restrictions and guidelines that we must follow, please see below.
- We will continue to live stream our services for those who cannot attend or are not yet ready to return to meeting in groups.

The church is slowly reopening for other services, uses, and ministries. If you wish to gain access to the church or to use the church for function or meeting, please contact pastors Matthew and Gillian.

It might seem to some like we should be able to re-open as normal and get on with life, but for now, that is not the case. For the time being we wish to show respect for our government, and their leading. The government of Alberta has asked us to follow certain guidelines and procedures as we open to services again. The government has created stages to the re-launching process and so we too will be re-opening in stages as the government leads.

The following restrictions and guidelines are necessary for us to be able to meet together. We are very excited about moving forward and coming together again and hope that you are as well.

Restrictions and Guidelines

Health & Safety

- Staff, visitors and congregation should stay home if they are sick in any way. The government has provided a self-assessment tool if you wish to use it.
- According to the government of Alberta, people over the age of 65 or those with health conditions are more at risk with regards to COVID 19. Anyone over the age of 65 or with health conditions that chooses to attend a service, does so at their own risk.
- Physical (social) distancing (2 meters or 6 feet) should be maintained between people who are not from the same household / cohort at all times.
- Seating is setup to maintain social distancing. The seats are in rows that are approximately 6 feet apart. Congregants not from the same cohort as others seated in their row must maintain a minimum of 2 chairs between them and their neighbors.
- In order to maximize our seating, we are asking people to start at the inner isle chairs and work their way out. Our ushers may ask you to move if it becomes necessary. Please help us with this.
- Congregational singing, shouting, or the like is not recommended during worship. However, you are able to sing as long as your singing voice does not exceed the volume of your speaking voice.
- If you wish to sing louder than your speaking voice, please put on a mask.
- The front doors will be used for both entering and exiting the building. Please attempt to maintain physical distancing while entering and exiting the building.
- The water fountain is turned off, no drinks or snacks will be provided. You may bring your own drink or snack; these must not be shared. Drinks must be in a resealable container like a bottle or travel mug. Food should also be in a resealable container like Tupperware or a Ziplock bag.
- The kitchen and nursery are off limits.
- On a Sunday, the upstairs classrooms should only be used or accessed by the children's ministry. The room overlooking the sanctuary is for families with small children only, please see the section on families.
- The bathrooms are limited to two people at a time. If a parent must accompany a child into the bathroom, the parent and child shall be counted as a single user.
- We will not be passing around the offering plates or communion during the service. A table will be set up with communion items and offering plates. Care will be taken to ensure items on the table have been sanitized. You can still give of your tithes and offerings digitally. However, if you wish to you can give via the offering plates, cheques are preferred to cash.

Hygiene & Sanitization

Sanitizer will be provided throughout the building. There will be sanitizer in each of the following locations; Foyer, sanctuary, main floor bathrooms, upstairs room over the sanctuary.

- Everyone is required to sanitize their hands upon entering the building.
- The wearing of gloves or masks is not mandatory and is up to the individual to choose, except as required for the altar ministry.
- Flagging during worship is permitted. You must provide your own flag.
- After using the bathroom, everyone must wash and sanitize their hands before leaving the bathroom.

Families

- Unfortunately, no childcare (nursery) for children 2 and under is being provided at this time. Families must bring things to keep their children engaged during the service. No supplies or activities will be provided.
- Children ages 2 and under must be held by their parents at all times.
- Parents are expected to keep children 5 years of age and under within arm's length at all times unless they are playing outside. If they are playing outside, they should be supervised by someone responsible.
- Parents of children 6-12 should know where their children are at all times and have explained the physical distancing rules to them.
- Children 12 and under shall be accompanied by an adult whenever they leave the sanctuary during the worship service.
- Everyone, including children, are expected to stay in their seats. During worship people may wish to roam, pace or dance. The areas at the back of the sanctuary are designated for this purpose. When using this space please attempt to maintain physical distancing.
- If we have services where the number of people attending exceeds our seating ability, we may ask children 10 and under to share a seat with their parent.
- The upstairs room overlooking the sanctuary is available for families with small children. If you children are unable to stay in their seats or become loud, or fussy, we ask that you take your children upstairs to minimize the noise level in the sanctuary. The room upstairs will be limited to a maximum of 10 people (two families) and will be on a first come first serve basis.
 - No toys will be provided, families will be expected to bring and take home their own toys and activities for their children.
 - Families are responsible to ensure social distancing is maintained. Families can choose to create cohort families.
- Dirty diapers shall be bagged and taken home for disposal.

Altar Ministry

Altar ministry will be provided as required. The following shall be observed for the laying on of hands ministry:

- Those ministering and those being ministered to must wear a mask. (masks will be available, if you have your own mask please bring it with you.)
- Those ministering must stand behind those being ministered to. **Do not** face each other.
- Those ministering shall sanitize their hands, each time, before laying hands on someone. Gloves are not required or provided.

Please note that while King's Gate Church is doing its best to follow the restrictions set forth by the government of Alberta, we cannot guarantee everyone will follow them nor will we police everyone. Everyone who attends a service does so at their own risk. Everyone has a different comfort level when it comes to PPE, physical distancing, and following the rules. Everyone is expected to follow the restrictions listed here. It is up to the individual to communicate their personal restrictions to others, it is not up to others to predict your comfort level. Please respect one another and police yourself. If a serious infraction is noted please inform the individual and the pastors or elders. We request that you do not report anything to Alberta Health Services or the authorities without first informing the pastors or elders and giving them the chance to address the issue. Involvement of AHS could result in fines and the closure of the church. We are doing everything within our power to comply with the current restrictions. Let's work together to navigate this season and make adjustments if needed as we walk together.