

Champion Church of the Nazarene COVID-19 Pandemic Protocol

Until it is determined by leadership with the insight provided by our local health department and the state of Ohio that the spread of COVID-19 has been downgraded from pandemic proportions, Champion Church of the Nazarene will abide by these protocols for its ministries.

COVID-19 Protocol for All Ministries

- People who display any kind of symptoms of COVID-19 (or any other illness for that matter) or is awaiting a COVID-19 test because of previous known exposure should not participate in person at our worship services, discipleship groups, and other ministries.
- Physical distancing of at least 6 feet will be observed at all services, groups, and/or events.
- Masks will be worn by all people ages 5 and older at all times during inside events that involve people from different households.
- Those who are unable to wear masks due to medical conditions should remain at home and participate in ministries through online means.
- All people will refrain from physical greeting including but not limited to handshakes, fist bumps, elbow bumps, and hugs.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be readily available around the facility. Anyone entering the building should sanitize their hands immediately to keep surfaces in the facility as clean as possible.
- When using the restroom, all should wash their hands thoroughly according to posted signage, use paper towels to turn off faucets and to open doors.
- Coat racks and other shared storage areas will not be available. Personal possessions are to remain with attenders for the duration of the service/event.
- Water fountains will not be available for use.
- Signs will be posted to remind any in attendance of these protocols.

Cancellation of In Person Ministries Criteria

- If the state of Ohio raises the public advisory system to red or higher in Trumbull county, all in person ministries will be cancelled until the county returns to orange or lower. **Updated by motion of the Leadership Council on 2/23/21:** Because of the percentage of our congregation with immunity has increased due to confirmed recoveries of COVID-19 and vaccinations in some of our eldest membership, in person ministries will be held as long as the Ohio Advisory System does not list Trumbull county as purple.
- If there is a possible exposure of COVID-19 at one of our in person events, ministries will move to online only for a minimum of two weeks unless a negative test is confirmed. If there are pending tests for COVID-19 by someone who attended, ministries will be online only.

Specific In Person Worship Service Protocols

- Services will be 45-60 minutes in duration and will be available online and via FM transmitter.
- Because of capacity limitations in the main sanctuary, our Sunday Morning Worship service will be held in the Christian Life Center gym until further notice.
- Heating and cooling of the facility will be conducted before the service, as the airflow from these systems with people present would increase the possible spread of COVID-19.
- Seating will be organized into groupings of chairs for people of the same household. Each grouping is at least 6 feet from other groups of chairs.
- All people will be screened with a no-contact thermometer before entering the building for service. Anyone with a temperature of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit will not be permitted in the building and encouraged to join online from home or worship in their car outside with their radio.
- Households will be ushered to their seating groups by assigned numbers, while physically distancing from others. Ushers will notate where each household sits to assist with contact tracing in case of exposure. Households will be seated from front to back as best as possible.

- Once seated, households are to remain in place except in cases of using the restroom or other emergency.
- At the end of service, households will be dismissed from the back to the front.
- Those leading the service will not be required to wear a mask while speaking or singing. Those leading will be at least 20 feet from the front row.
- While restrooms will be available, they will be limited to one person at a time. If a child needs assistance, his/her parent may join them in the restroom. There will be a servant to help facilitate this.
- Offering will be received by dropping contributions into plates available in the gym, through the mail, or online via [tithely](https://tithely.com). There will be no passing of the plate.
- Discipleship paper materials will be limited, though available on a table, individually placed.
- There will be no staffed nursery, however an infant care room will be available for moms and their infants.
- Jr. Church will not be offered upon returning to in person services initially. Jr. Church specific protocols will need to be developed before returning.
- Chairs will be sanitized with a spray cleaner after each service. Bathrooms will be cleaned thoroughly weekly before a service will be held. The amenities in the infant care room will be sanitized after service.

Specific Discipleship Group Protocols

- All Discipleship Groups that meet on the church campus will abide by the COVID-19 Protocol for All Ministries.
- Groups will abide by the capacity limits for each room as posted as set by the Leadership Council. (Gate Beautiful 10, Faith Prayer Study 6-8, Basement 7-10, Old Library 10-14, Adult Discipleship Room 7)
- Groups will meet for 60 minutes or less.
- Any materials should be brought with individuals. Leaders will not pass out discipleship materials when meeting.

COVID-19 Exposure Protocol

- If someone attending an in person ministry develops symptoms of COVID-19 in the week after the event, they are to call Pastor Matt or appointed leader to activate a proper response.
- The identity of the sick person(s) will remain confidential in all communications with the church unless consent is given for the purpose of prayer.
- The person who develops symptoms and those within his/her household will be encouraged to seek a COVID-19 test.
- In person ministries will discontinue for at least two weeks and move online. This will be communicated through phone messages and social media. If the test of the sick person(s) returns negative, ministries will continue as previously scheduled.
- Those in the immediate area of the sick person(s) at the in-person ministry will be notified to self-isolate, consult their employer/school about further action, observe any symptoms, and to seek a test if preferred.
- The Trumbull County Health Department will be notified if an exposure occurs at Champion Church of the Nazarene to assist in public contact tracing beyond our faith community.