



# Temporary Policy Guidelines for FCC During COVID-19 Pandemic

## Purpose

Scripture encourages God's people to love our neighbors AND to regularly meet together. The COVID-19 pandemic limited this while government restrictions kept us separated to slow the spread of the disease. Reduced restrictions give the privilege of reapplying these biblical principles as we regather while the virus is still present in our broader community.

In developing the following approach to regathering, we seek to follow the spirit of government guidelines and the governing principles of Christian love and fellowship. We are taking measured steps in phases to restore worship and other gatherings at FCC while reducing risk to the people of the St. Croix valley. We will learn and adapt.

This formal policy implements recommended temporary changes at Faith Community Church, Hudson, WI, affecting all uses of the facility, while seeking to demonstrate love for our community and safety of staff, volunteers, and attendees. These changes may be reduced or removed in phases as risk from the virus reduces over time.

We intend to post this policy where it can be viewed within the facility. [VIEW THE ST. CROIX COUNTY HEALTH ADVISORY HERE.](#)

## Signage

We intend to post signage at the entry doors and within the building requesting everyone to respectfully observe the following:

1. If you are experiencing any flu-like symptoms, we request you not attend until your symptoms have passed.  
Symptoms may include:
  - a. Fever
  - b. Coughing or sneezing
  - c. Gastro-intestinal upset
  - d. Loss of taste or smell
  - e. Other general symptoms associated with COVID-19
2. Maintain physical distancing:
  - a. Spacing of at least 6 feet from those outside their immediate family while circulating and seated in the building.
  - b. Wearing a face covering. In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, Governor Evers' issued an Emergency Order effective starting on Saturday, Aug 1, 2020, requiring that individuals 5 and older wear face coverings indoors, unless a person meets one of the exceptions listed. The predominant

### FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

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transmission mode of the COVID virus is via airborne particulates. In the spirit of Romans 14 and out of love and the desire for the safety of our neighbors, we ask for your help and understanding in this matter. If you are able, please bring your own mask. We will make masks available at the building entrance for those who don't bring their own.

3. Maintain personal hygiene:
  - a. We intend to provide hand sanitizer and encourage people to use it as they enter and exit the building.
  - b. We intend to post signage inside or near restrooms to encourage hand washing in restrooms.
4. Do not shake hands or engage in physical contact.

## Staff and Volunteer Training

We seek to protect everyone through training and regular updates to staff and volunteers regarding various reasonable safety efforts within the church.

1. We intend to increase the occurrence and depth of facility cleaning and disinfection activities, especially common touch points, both before and during services.
  - a. Guidance for cleaning and disinfection is located on the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services and CDC websites](#).
2. We may not collect offerings by passing collection bags but provide collection boxes at the back of the sanctuary.
3. We may not pass common elements of communion during the services.

## Using Limited Space

We intend to continue livestreamed services while supporting limited on-site participation without the need for RSVP.

## Safety

These measures are aligned with safe and reasonable government guidance, and will reduce infection possibility, yet we cannot eliminate that risk entirely. As a result, we need you to resolve for yourself whether participating in on-site worship is best for you. The safest alternative, especially for those who are vulnerable or immune-compromised, will continue to be worshipping with us online.

These phases of regathering may temporarily:

1. Offer nursery with additional safety precautions and cleaning practices. Other children's activities will not occur during this stage of regathering.
2. Remove communal items, bulletins and Bibles from the services.
3. Not hold funerals or weddings in the facility.
4. Limit or prevent other uses of the facility.

You are important to God, and to us. Therefore, we seek to safely and wisely regather in phases to serve our community more and more broadly, to help everyone come to meet, know and follow Jesus. We humbly ask for your patience and your prayers while we re-emerge, re-engage and revitalize together.

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