****

          

 

**GUIDELINES FOR USE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES**

October 27, 2020

The following are the current general guidelines for members and guests entering or using Independent Presbyterian Church buildings or facilities. These general guidelines may be supplemented for other specific events or uses—for example, weddings and funerals—or for specific church properties. All guidelines are intended to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission.

At this time, using the church buildings in person is limited to meetings essential business of the church (ex. HR, PNC, Deacons). Please make every effort to use online meeting sites (ex. Zoom) or conference calls when possible. Please ensure that every member of your group is comfortable meeting in person and/or has access to the meeting via telephone or online sites.

1. **Designated Rooms or Areas**: Use of church facilities for meetings or other gatherings may be limited to designated rooms or outdoor areas in order to facilitate social distancing. At this time, the following room will be made available by ***reservation only***:
	* + **Great Hall 1 Limit – 12 A/V Available**
		+ **Great Hall 2 Limit - 6 A/V Available**
		+ **Rooms 305-306 Limit – 25 A/V Available**
		+ **Garage Limit – 22 A/V Available**
		+ **HH Loft Limit – 20 A/V Available**
		+ **Patio Limit – 25**
		+ **Highland Hall Assembly Limit – 75 A/V Available**
		+ **Sanctuary Limit – 60**
2. **Limited Number of Attendees:** The number of attendees may be limited based on the rooms or areas within or outside the church to be utilized in order to facilitate social distancing. The maximum number of attendees is 25.
3. **Requirements for Arriving Members and Guests**:
	1. Social Distancing: All members and guests must maintain a consistent six-foot distance between persons.
	2. Masks: All members and guests over the age of two (2) must wear masks while on church property.
	3. Food and Beverage: No outside food is allowed. People may bring a single-size beverage for personal consumption.
	4. Obligations Prior to Arrival: All members and guests are expected to exercise precautions prior to arrival to reduce the risk of virus transmission. These precautions include, among other things, the following:
		* asking themselves the following questions before arriving at the church:
			+ Have I been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
			+ Am I experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?
			+ Have I experienced a loss of taste or smell?
			+ Have I had a fever in the last 24 hours?
			+ Was my recent temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit?
			+ Have I traveled internationally within the past 14 days?

If the answer to any of the above questions is “yes,' the member or guest should not come to the church.

* + - if possible, taking their own temperatures before leaving home, which should not exceed 100.4 degrees (Fahrenheit).
		- washing their hands with warm water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home;
		- using the restroom before leaving home as church restrooms may be limited or not available for use; and
		- using personal hand sanitizer upon arrival.

Attendance of people 65 or older or others especially at risk is discouraged.

* 1. Additional Obligations Upon Arrival: Use hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes as may be made available within the church, and wash hands with warm water and soap when using available church restrooms.
	2. Acknowledgement of Exposure Risk: All members and guests understand and acknowledge that COVID-19 is a public health risk that can result in serious illness or death and exposure can occur despite precautions taken. All members and guests using or entering church property or facilities voluntarily assume all risk of exposure.
1. **Additional Requests or Instructions of Clergy or Church Staff**: All members and guests are expected to follow any additional requests or instructions made by the clergy or church staff.

Because of the fluid nature of state and local requirements and recommendations relating to COVID-19, these guidelines are subject to change without notice. Any exception to the foregoing guidelines must be approved in advance by the church. Rooms or areas of the church available for meetings or gathering and any limitations on the number of attendees will be determined by church facilities management in consultation with the appropriate church oversight committee.