

October 28, 2020

Church family:

The information below was originally shared with our pastors and posted on this website in July of 2020. As you are likely aware, the Covid pandemic throughout our territory, and much of the world has, as feared, and predicted by some, greatly worsened. The four required protocols for those congregations which are meeting in person and described below continue to be our policy. Thank you for your review of the following which again, was announced in July and, for the purpose of reducing the risk to our congregations who are worshipping in person, continues to reflect the expectations of Conference Administration for our churches.

The four basic initiatives listed below are not designed to eliminate other additional Covid-19 safety protocols you may have implemented in your local church, but they are intended to represent the minimum requirements we would desire our congregations that are meeting live, to abide by.

1. Frequent handwashing, especially after contact/interaction with others in church, i.e. handshake, hug, and as always, after a visit to the restroom.
2. Cleaning of frequent contact surfaces in the church, door handles, etc. This should be a regular protocol of whoever cleans the church between services.

The next two are also the basics, recognizing that most of the contagion problem is via "air delivery."

3. Social distancing. Six-foot separation rule.
4. Finally, PPE masking while indoors. We know it's not comfortable, we know they can be hot, we know some debate the level of protection they provide, but as most of you are aware, even local government agencies not only here in Tennessee, but it seems across the U.S., are now making masking the law.

So, to summarize and repeat, 1. Wash hands. 2. Wipe surfaces. 3. Mask. 4. Social distance.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in attempting to reduce the risk associated with Covid-19, and in an effort to make our churches safe and inviting to all who desire to worship.

Dr. Steve Haley, President
Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists