

Greetings Zion Congregational Church Family!

This document contains the conditions and protocols that we will meet in order to comply with the Governor's COVID-19 guidelines. While such guidelines impose restrictions, we intend to abide by them to ensure we're doing all we can to protect everyone's health – especially the most vulnerable among us.

Toward that end, you need know the guidelines strongly recommend that those who are at higher-risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (e.g. 65 years and older, chronic lung disease, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised, severe obesity, diabetes, liver disease, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, etc.) not participate in group meetings. I will of course be there even though I fall into that category. But if you are at risk, there is no expectation that you participate. If you do participate, know that you're doing so contrary to the Governor's recommended guidelines.

There are also some required and strongly recommended guidelines that we will meet. I will not bore you with quoting them, but will instead offer the following list of what to expect from our efforts to comply:

- We will observe social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart) at all times, when arriving, while seated, and while departing (this means no physical contact, congregating, etc.), with the exception of family members who live together who can therefore also arrive, be seated, hang out and depart together. Pews will be taped off to help facilitate that distancing. Yellow vested volunteers will be directing everyone's movements. Please honor their directions – they are no happier about these conditions than any of the rest of us.
- The maximum seating in the sanctuary will be 50 persons, overflow will be seated in the fellowship hall (so come early if you want to sit in the sanctuary). Station 91.9 FM will also be active for anyone who would prefer to stay in their car in the parking lot.
- Unless you have a medical or respiratory reason not to do so, please wear a face mask (one will be provided if you don't have one with you).
- Your temperature will be taken upon arrival. If it is over 100.4, we must ask you to go home.
- Restrooms will be open, but for only one patron at a time.
- We're required to create a "touch-free" environment, which means: no refreshments or goodies; not touching anything unnecessarily (volunteers will open and close access doors as required); no bulletins (the order of worship will be emailed or snail mailed ahead of time for you to bring with you); no pew hymnals (hymn lyrics will be on the aforementioned orders of worship); no pew Bibles (you will have to bring your own); no passing offering plates (they will be on a table in the foyer for you to deposit your gifts); no distributing communion elements (we're still working on how best to get that done when we have communion).
- There will be touch-free hand sanitizers in the foyer to use as often as you like.

Please know that I realize this list is cumbersome. Thank you for your cooperation as we all await the day we will be free of these requirements (it cannot happen too soon!). Just by way of reminder, please stay home if you have a temperature over 100.4, any symptoms of any ill feeling whatsoever, or have been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.