



CORONA VIRUS SAFE WORSHIP PLAN

St. Andrews Episcopal Church Grays Harbor

Affirmed by the Vestry on March 17, 2021

and the Priest-In-Charge Rev. Bob Hoem

Opening Statement:

Prior to resuming in-person worship at St. Andrews GH, the Vestry met several times to review the Guidelines received from the State of Washington and the Diocese of Olympia, and to analyze the impact that COVID-19 would have upon our congregation and upon our physical church building. This Plan was drafted after careful study, research, and much discussion. The broad parameters of the Guiding Precepts provided us by the State and the Diocese have been carefully tailored to our unique congregation and physical building.

We are confident that the conscientious adherence to this Plan will protect our congregation while within God's House, to the extent of our present knowledge of this deadly disease.

Pre-Worship Procedures:

Analysis of our Sanctuary revealed a unique sanitizing challenge. The pews within are constructed of wood over 100 years old, and we were unable to identify a sanitizing cleaner which would not harm this precious wood. Also, after measuring the number of pews and the distance between pews, we determined that very few persons would be able to maintain the 6' Social Distancing requirement for services.

We then went on to consider our Great Hall for possible service location. After the tables and excess folding chairs were removed, the floor was measured and marked every 6' with large blue tape "X's", and metal folding chairs were placed accordingly. The decision was then made to hold our services in the Great Hall. It had the space needed and did not present the sanitizing challenges like those of the Sanctuary.

Congregation members planning on attending each Sunday's services will notify the Church Office of their intentions via phone or e-mail, thus providing the church with a tentative number of attendees. When numbers exceed space in the Great Hall, Giles Hall will provide for socially distanced overflow.

Signs will be posted outside of each of the two entrances used indicating COVID safety and prevention requirements for entrance into the Church building. Signage is posted inside the church as well.

Folding chairs, tables, restroom fixtures, exterior step railings, entrance door handles, and all other frequently touched surfaces will be sprayed with sanitizer and wiped down both prior to weekly services and at their conclusion.

Worship Service Procedures:

Church Members Not Attending Services: St. Andrews will “Live Stream” all live services to provide equal access to worship for all. Other offerings, such as in-depth study of certain Apostles, and Lenten Themes for Contemplation have been provided by our Priest-In-Charge on our website. A special Christmas Eve Service will also be available on the website as well as on You Tube. DVDs of this service will also be provided free of charge to those wishing to have one.

Safe Entry Screening Practices: Only two church doors will be utilized to enter and exit services: the handicapped entrance located adjacent to the parking lot and the entrance facing “G” Street. A station will be established at each entry with spray sanitizer, masks, gloves, forms, sanitized pens, and programs. Six foot intervals are marked in the entry way and outside so that people know where to stand while waiting.

The Vestry identified volunteers who would act as COVID Ushers for each of our two services: at 8 o’clock and 10 o’clock, as well as alternates in case of absences. Each of these COVID Ushers are given the duty of meeting service attendees at the door.

The Ushers will check for properly worn masks and take attendees’ temperatures with a hands-free thermometer and offer forms and programs. Anyone exhibiting a temperature of 100.4 or greater will not be allowed entry.

Ushers will ensure that compliance has taken place. Should a person attempt to gain entry without a mask or with an unacceptable temperature they will be turned away. Should this amiable approach fail, the Priest will be informed, and the service will be immediately halted. All attendees will be told to return home. In effect, the Ushers will be responsible for enforcement of COVID restrictions.

Safe Practices During Services: Service attendees will seat themselves in pre-sanitized, metal, folding chairs as indicated by blue tape markers on the floor. Only members of a family that live together will be allowed to sit together.

In consultation with the Vestry, the Priest-In-Charge has decided to hold Morning Prayer Services until resumption of the Holy Eucharist has been deemed reasonably safe by the Diocese. All attendees will be given a Service Program each week in which the service will be presented in its entirety. This will eliminate the need for worshipers to use the Book of Common Prayer.

No live singing will take place during services. Cantor-led Psalms and Anthems will be pre-recorded using individual singers for the duration of COVID restrictions. The bell choir, masked and gloved, will provide live musical selections at appropriate intervals.

Offerings will be placed in a basket provided at the front of the Great Hall by individuals wishing to contribute. This will eliminate hand-to-hand transference of objects.

Per the Religious and Faith-based Organization COVID-19 Requirements, dated 1/11/2021 tissue and waste receptacles are placed around the room so as to be accessible to attendees.

Two restrooms are available. Signage of protocols for use of the restrooms and the number of people permitted inside at one time is posted on the outside and inside of the door. We ensure that paper towels, soap and disinfecting wipes are readily available.

Congregation Exit of Service: Our congregation attendees do not constitute a great enough number of persons to require a formal exit plan. No lines are anticipated, since the majority of our church members are over 65 years of age and/or suffer from serious health problems which would preclude attendance in person. After each service attendees are reminded to remain socially distanced with masks on as they exit and go to their cars.

Meetings Held in the Church Building:

Church-Based Groups: All non-essential meetings will be discontinued until Grays Harbor County is approved for said resumption.

The Vestry will resume holding monthly meetings as soon as approved by the Diocese. Meetings will be held in the Great Hall, following Social Distancing Guidelines, with attendance limited to 11 persons.

Community-Based Groups: N/A and A/A groups will resume meeting when approved by the Diocese. Meetings will be held in Giles Hall, which has been marked for Social Distancing, and using folding metal chairs. Each of the two Program Directors will perform the duties of the COVID Usher (as detailed above) prior to these meetings.

They will also maintain all COVID documentation, to preserve the confidentiality essential to the success of these programs.

Attachments:

- a. Individual Attestation and Consent Form
- b. COVID-19 Event Disclosure and Screening Form
- c. Attendance Checklist, to be used when the use of Form b. is discontinued by the Diocese.

Note that all forms related to COVID documentation and Formal Guidelines have been retained and compiled in a designated notebook binder, which will be kept on file in the Church Secretary's Office for review at all times.

Attachment #1.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Aberdeen, WA
Individual Attestation and Consent to Work/Participate

In compliance with the State of Washington's "Safe Start" plan and the Diocese of Olympia's "Guide to Gathering in Person," St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Aberdeen, WA requires that you be informed of the symptoms, and mechanisms of spread, of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19); attest to be symptom free at time of entering the premises, consent to the risks of working, volunteering, or participating in any activity on the premises, and to release St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Aberdeen, WA from liability in the event of exposure or sickness.

What is the Coronavirus and how does it spread?

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a virus that is spread person-to-person or by touching a contaminated surface and then touching your eyes, nose, mouth, or face. The virus is believed to be spread primarily through respiratory droplets. Those who have been infected have reported mild to severe symptoms, and can include:

Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

While all people are potentially at risk of contracting COVID-19, older people (over the age of 65) and those with underlying health conditions (heart or lung disease, diabetes, etc.) are at greater risk and are strongly encouraged to stay home.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, or have come into contact with anyone who has shown signs of these symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19, please vacate the premises immediately and contact your medical care provider.

Cooperative Mitigation Policy

To ensure the health and well-being of all parishioners, staff, volunteers, any person entering the premises of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Aberdeen, WA for work or worship must consent to the following practices:

- A cloth face covering must be worn at all times
- Physical distancing of at least six (6) feet must be maintained between all persons not from the same household
- Wash hands thoroughly or use hand sanitizer (provided) upon entry, after using the restroom, and before and after consuming any food or drink, or coming into contact with high-touch surfaces
- Refrain from physical contact and sharing items with others (e.g., books, leaflets, pens, etc.)
- For staff and volunteers: wipe down high-touch surfaces before and after use (e.g. light switches, doorknobs, copier and printer equipment, etc.)
- Sign an Individual Attestation and Consent to Work/Participate

Attestation and Consent

By signing below, you attest:

- That you have not exhibited any symptoms of COVID-19 or come into contact with anyone who has or has tested positive
- That you have followed the CDC and Washington Health officials' guidelines of maintaining physical distancing, wearing facial coverings, and refrained from participating in gatherings that do not observe these guidelines.

Attachment #2

COVID-19 EVENT DISCLOSURE AND SCREENING FORM

Church/Organization: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Event/Activity: Worship Service
Date of Event: _____
Name of Participant: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email Address: _____

Considering recent events, the health and wellbeing of our community is our paramount concern. Therefore, all participants at the above event are required to sign one of these forms and agree to voluntarily assume any risk of physically participating at this event.

Before attending, you agree that:

1. I understand my attendance and participation in the above event can pose a risk of COVID-19 or other contagious or infectious diseases to me, and if I am a high-risk person, as defined by the CDC, I should stay home and avoid participation;
2. If I have been recently exposed to COVID-19, I understand that I may pose a risk to others.
3. I agree that none of the following applies to me:
 - a. To my knowledge, I have not been in close or proximate contact with anyone who has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
 - b. I have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
 - c. I have not experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days, including but not limited to fever, fatigue, difficulty breathing, or dry cough.
4. If there is an outbreak, my information may be shared with Public Health officials to engage in an approved contact tracing program. I understand that my information will be saved, and my information may be released to such Public Health Officials in the event it is needed for such a program.
5. I agree to follow all social distancing protocols in place at this event or activity and agree to wear a face mask while attending this event.

Your participating in person at this event is conditioned upon your acceptance and agreement to the above.

Thank you for helping us keep our community safe and healthy, we are all in this together!

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Attachment #3

NEED INDIVIDUAL ATTESTATION FORM

St. Andrews Sunday Attendance

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