
Church Reopening Guideline

The Ontario government has announced on June 8, 2020 that churches province-wide can reopen at 30% building capacity starting June 12. Toronto Public Health has first issued COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship on June 12 (last update: July 8). **As of July 7, 2020, the use of non-medical masks or face coverings is required in all indoor public spaces, as per a new City of Toronto bylaw.**

This guideline provides essential information as we reopen our church meetings in phases. Please read carefully.

General Guidelines

We will continue to respect Public Health guidelines to keep our congregation safe. The following precautions will be taken:

- **Limit attendance:** the building capacity of our church is documented at 240 people. Our maximum headcount for any meeting is 72, until congregating restrictions further relaxes. RSVP is required for all meetings. As an extra measure of caution, we advise children under 13, seniors over 70, pregnant ladies and those who may have chronic health conditions from joining our meeting in our first phase of reopening.
- **Health declaration:** everyone entering our building is required to fill in a Google Form to declare his/her health and travel history. The Form is to be filled out on the same day prior to every meeting, at most two hours in advance. Those who display one or more symptoms and those who have not cleared the required travel quarantine will be declined entrance. The Google Form is available at: www.carmellogos.org
- **Controlled entrance:** everyone arriving should enter by the main entrance (west entrance). You will first be screened at the Entrance Health Station (EHS) to use hand sanitizer, and to take temperature. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to meeting, and will be locked at the starting time of the meeting. Please arrive early.
- **Attendance log:** information collected by the Google Form will be stored internally to help support contact tracing.
- **Physical distancing:** Physical distancing of 2 meters should be observed where possible. We discourage physical contacts. Please follow new seating plans and safety markings on the floor.
- **Mask and Face covering:** everyone in the building is required to use mask or face covering at all times. This applies to all serving staff and participants. Our church will provide disposable masks in case someone forgets to bring his/her own.
- **Hymn singing.** Singing and choir services are to be suspended as per Toronto Public Health Guidance.
- **Bibles, hymn books and bulletins.** These will not be shared or distributed in our meeting. Brothers and sisters are encouraged to bring their own Bibles and hymn books. Church copies can be signed out and be kept for your personal use. Hymn lyrics will be projected on screens during worship. Weekly bulletins will be made available in electronic forms.
- **Food and drink:** food consumption is not allowed inside the building. Please do not use water machine. Brothers and sisters are encouraged to bring their own water. Bottled water is also available.

- **Washroom hygiene:** washroom occupancy is limited to 6 persons at the same time. Waiting lines are to form outside of the washroom in the hallway with floor markings. We ask everyone to thoroughly wash his/her hands after every washroom visit.

Special Arrangements for Specific Meetings

In addition to the general meeting guideline, below are arrangements specific to each meeting:

Sunday Worship

Every Sunday at 11:00 am

1. The meeting will be held in the main sanctuary. New seating plan is in place to improve physical distancing. All seats are forward-facing.
2. Brothers and sisters will generally sit in single seats. Family members from the same household can sit together side by side occupying a single row.
3. The program will include prayer and hymn by the chairman, and sermon.
4. Physical distancing is to be maintained in sanctuary, hallways and foyer.
5. Please wait at the doorway to be cleared if another person is coming through from the opposite side.
6. Social gatherings before or after worship services, including food sharing, are suspended.
7. Please do not dispose personal face mask inside the building.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting

Every Wednesday at 7:45 pm

1. The meeting will be held in the main sanctuary. New seating plan is in place to improve physical distancing. All seats are forward-facing.
2. The program will include a short message, announcement of prayer items, and prayer time.
3. Brothers and sisters will pray in pairs.

Fellowship Meetings

Fridays and Saturdays

1. Fellowship meetings can meet in the main sanctuary, English worship room, or where physical distancing can be maintained.
2. Singing is suspended until further notice.
3. Social gatherings before and after fellowship, including food sharing, are suspended.