

THE ST MUNGO'S UNITED CHURCH

RE-OPENING GUIDELINES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)



RE-OPENING OF THE CHURCH BUILDING

1. When will the church officially re-open the building for public worship?

The re-opening of the church building for worshipping will take place in 2 phases.

Phase 1 - October will be the 1st month of returning to worshipping in the church building with only Selaotswe (supported by the members of the Communication, Property & Maintenance and Worship Committees) conducting the church services from the church building and having these streamed via ZOOM and Facebook.

Phase 2 - From Sunday, 1 November 2020, the church will officially re-open the building for public worship. Online church services will continue being streamed via ZOOM and Facebook, for persons still not feeling comfortable, or unable, to attend worship in-person.

2. What about the -Risk Groups

We encourage anyone who is part of the at-risk group (the elderly or medically-vulnerable) to continue to join us via our online worship service on ZOOM and Facebook.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

3. Is there any protocol to be followed for church attendance?

Yes, there is. The South African **Disaster Management Act: Regulations: Alert level 1 during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown** stipulates that churches are limited to 250 persons or less, in case of an indoor gathering, and 500 persons or less in case of an outdoor gathering. Provided that no more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue is used, with persons observing a distance of least one and a half metres from each other.

4. How are you going to ensure that the church adheres to the above?

A simple-to-use pre-registration form will be shared with the St Mungo's community via the existing communication platforms (i.e. WhatsApp, email, weekly newsletter, Facebook and Instagram) for completion by Friday, weekly.

5. What is the purpose of the pre-registration form?

Completing the pre-registration will assist the responsible Team to manage capacity in order to help the church adhere to social distancing guidelines, and generate a weekly report of attendees.

6. Will my temperature be taken? How and when?

Only the temperature, using the infra-red digital thermometer, will be taken on Sunday, prior to entering the church building, and recorded next to your name on your already completed form.

7. Can I just show up at the church door without filling out the pre-registration form?

It is important to complete the pre-registration form as a manner of RSVPing so we know how many people to expect.

Refer to Nos. 4, 5 and 6 above for information on the importance of pre-registering.

8. Does it matter where I park?

Everyone is asked to please park only in the front parking lot. Please reserve the closest spots for those who may not be as mobile as you.

CONTACT TRACING

9. How is the church going to manage contact tracing?

A register of attendees, via the pre-registration form, will be maintained for contact tracing.

SANITISING STATIONS

10. Will there be sanitising stations available?

Yes. The responsible team will ensure that hand sanitiser/ sanitising stations are available in strategic places around the church to help ensure that all congregants make use of this service prior to entry, during the service and upon exiting the church building.

QUEUE MANAGEMENT

11. How is the queue during the screening process at the door be managed?

Staggered ingress will be observed in order to minimise queues during screening checks, with

12. Where are we expected to queue?

Clearly marked spaces will be visible on the ground leading to the door of the church building. The congregation is urged to adhere to these as part of observing social distancing.

CHURCH BUILDING ENTRANCES

13. Will there be Greeters present at the door?

No. No Greeters to be present at the door; only a steward managing the contact tracing database and taking temperature will be stationed at the entrance of the church building.

14. What will happen to those with temperature readings of 38° Celsius and above?

Those with readings of 38° Celsius and above will be asked to return home.

HAND SANITISERS, FACE COVERINGS, SEATING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

15. Will I have to wear a mask?

Yes. Wearing a mask by all those attending a church service in the church building, including ministers and worshippers, where there may be other people present is mandatory. There are exemptions to this, including for those leading a service, detailed in the **St Mungo's United Church - The Church Preparedness Document To Re-Open The Church Building**.

16. Will the church provide masks for the congregation?

No. The congregation is encouraged to provide their own masks, with the following exceptions:

- Tissues, wet-wipes and toilet rolls will be available to everyone attending church services

17. Will I get to choose my own seat?

No. Alternate pews, not to be seated on, have been clearly marked with an orange tape to ensure social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic. People living in the same residence do not need to sit 1.5 meters apart, so that would give us extra capacity.

18. What precautionary respiratory hygiene measures should be followed?

The congregation is urged to practice good respiratory hygiene. When you cough or sneeze, do so into a tissue; dispose of the tissue and wash your hands afterwards. If you do not have a tissue available, cough into your sleeve or elbow.

WORSHIP SERVICE

19. Can we use communal service sheets and hymn books etc?

It is best not to use communal hymn and prayer books that can be touched repeatedly by different individuals. The order of service may be handed out at the door as you enter the church, or be placed on pews before the service, and then taken home by the congregation.

20. Will there be singing during the worship service?

Because of the services being livestreamed via ZOOM and Facebook, we will continue to use recorded singing rather than normal congregational singing for the time being.

The congregation worshipping in the church building is free to sing-along, but should keep their masks on at all times.

21. How will we take Holy Communion?

The Minister and all involved in the conducting of the Holy Communion service and preparing of the elements for Holy Communion and after receiving Communion must continually sanitize during the service.

Each person receiving Holy Communion will walk up towards the altar to receive the wafer from the Minister by cupping his/her hands together and the wafer dropped into them, before passing to the wine tray for their wine. After consumption, the empty wine glass should be placed in the other tray before the recipient proceeds to his/her seat.

22. How do we anticipate the Offering to take place?

Though an offertory plate will be placed in the front of the church, the church rather encourages electronic methods of collection/offering instead of shared collection plates.

23. Can we hang out in the foyer and mingle before, or after worship?

Not at this time. If you want to mingle outside, please be sure to respect social distancing guidelines.

24. Are children going to be running around inside the building?

No. Parents will need to keep their children with them at all times because of social-distancing rules.

25. Will we have Family Ministry services like before?

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26. Will there still be an online worship option?

Yes. Online church services will continue being streamed via ZOOM and Facebook, for persons still not feeling comfortable, or unable, to attend worship in-person.

27. Will the building be cleaned and or disinfected in preparation for Sunday church services?

Yes. The Property and Maintenance Committee is responsible for ensuring this happens.

28. What are we saying regarding those who are in the vulnerable category of 65 and older?

Those in the 65 and older category, are encouraged to remain at home until we work through the initial church re-opening phase. If a person in that vulnerable category wishes to attend services, they will not be prohibited. Our role is simply to caution them of their potential risks and encourage them to remain home and continue to take advantage of online services.

OPENING OF BATHROOMS

29. Will the bathrooms be open?

Yes, the bathrooms located by the mother/child room will be opened, but only with strict adherence to the guidelines detailed in the **St Mungo's United Church - The Church Preparedness Document To Re-Open The Church Building**.

EXIT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

30. What is the expected exit management procedure?

Social distancing likely requires that egress be managed the same way passengers exit an airplane at the end of their flight. Attendees nearest the exit door should leave first, by row or section, in order to clear space for attendees' further inside to follow.