

# COVID-19 Plan For In-Person Small Groups

## **Small Groups Are Vitally Important Right Now - Thank You For Participating**

- During this hard time, we all need a place to let our guard down and build meaningful relationships with one another and with God.
- We also need to do this safely and with intentional expressions of love/care. We want to love like Jesus in the way we do small groups.
- At first, this new way of doing small groups may feel a little awkward, but it's worth it. Small group is great and Jesus often meets us in the awkward.

## **If You Are At Higher Risk; If You Are Sick, OR If You Have Been Exposed To COVID-19, DO NOT GO To An In-Person Small Group:**

- If you are over 65 or have an underlying health condition (such as heart or lung disease or diabetes) we strongly encourage you to participate in an online small group at this time.
- Before you leave for small group, take your temperature and check if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. If you or anyone in your household has COVID-19 or any of these symptoms, you should stay home.
- If you have had exposure to someone with COVID-19, stay home and participate in small group online for at least 14 days. Medical workers or others that wear the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can still participate with in-person groups.

## **You Need To Bring These Things To Small Group**

To protect you and your hosts, we want small groups to be as touch-free as possible. Other than your chair, please bring with you everything that you'll need to touch physically.

- Bring and wear your own facemask.
- Bring your own Bible or Bible reading device.
- Bring your own food or drink, if desired (we can share the love of Jesus, but we can't share food).
- Bring your own sanitizer and disinfectant wipes, if that makes you more comfortable.

**the Vineyard church**  
*Love God. Love People. Period.*

**When You Arrive At Small Group**

- We will be enjoying no-touch greetings (the more joyful and silly the better)
- You will be asked to wash your hands well (with soap and water) or to use hand sanitizer
- You will notice that all the chairs are at least 6 feet apart. Please do your best to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet throughout small group.

**Other Essentials For In-Person Group Meetings:**

- We will worship God together, but without singing out loud. Singing (even with a mask) is a higher-risk activity and can put others in danger of infection.
- We will still pray for one another, but without “laying on of hands” (touch-free prayer).
- No more than 10 people meeting indoors; Outdoor gatherings are limited to 25 people. Meeting outdoors or in a garage also provides more space for people
- Pre-registration is required to join a group, and some groups may require you to RSVP each week to ensure the group is not over capacity.
- If a group member is unable or uncomfortable to meet in person, some groups are planning to utilize a hybrid model - meeting both in person and adding other group members via video.
- If you attend an in-person small group and are later diagnosed with COVID-19, please let your small group leader and the Vineyard small group pastor know ASAP. While respecting your privacy, we need to inform your group that they were exposed and activate steps detailed in our protocols “What happens when someone gets COVID?”
- We love to laugh and have fun at small group. And, we also need everyone to take safety seriously. The MN Department of Health says that we shouldn’t meet in-person “if adequate protective measures cannot be implemented.” Really, we’re just asking that we all love each other really well - like Jesus. Thank you!

For more information about a particular small group, we invite you to contact the small group leader. They can describe how this COVID-19 Plan is being implemented in their small group and answer your questions.