

Duluth Vineyard COVID-19 Worship Service Protocol (Indoors)

Worshipping God Is Vitally Important Right Now

- During this difficult time, we need to stay connected to God and to one another. God is our refuge and our strength. Please join us for either our online or in-person worship services as we come together with others and experience the Holy Spirit and his life changing love for us.
- There are important benefits from gathering in-person to worship together, and we must acknowledge that during this pandemic gathering in-person remains a high risk activity. Larger gatherings for extended periods are still dangerous and you could catch COVID-19 at one of our in-person worship services.
- Although we can't tell you it is 100% safe to come to an in-person worship service, (as you'll read below) we are taking important steps to minimize the risk to you and to the Twin Ports Community. We are trying hard to follow medical and governmental guidance. And, even more importantly, we really want to love others (like Jesus would) through the precautions we take when we gather in person to worship.

In-Person Worship Services on Sundays

- Sundays at 9 and 11am will be our in-person worship services.
- We will continue to live stream, on-line worship services Sundays at 9am and 11am.
- Recordings of our worship services are also available on YouTube.

If You Are Sick OR If You Have Been Exposed To COVID-19, DO NOT GO To An In-Person Worship Service

- Before you leave for an in-person worship service, 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, please stay home and attend our online worship service.

- Also, if you begin to feel unwell while at the service, you and everyone in your household should leave immediately. As soon as possible after you leave, please call 218-525-3462 and let us know why you left.
- If you have had exposure to someone with COVID-19, please stay home and attend our online worship service for at least 14 days. Medical workers or others that wear the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), people who have completed COVID vaccination, and people who recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days can still participate with us at our in-person worship services.

If You Are At Higher Risk, There Are Safer Ways For You To Participate

- If you are over 65 or have an underlying health condition (such as heart or lung disease or diabetes), please strongly consider staying home and participating in our online worship service, particularly if you have not completed COVID vaccination.
- If you don't feel comfortable or cannot attend our in-person worship services, we still value and love you just as much. Please join us for our online worship services. It doesn't matter if you go to an online or in-person service, what matters is that you experience the presence of the living God. God's not limited by going online or by in-person safety protocols, he's still loving us, healing us, and transforming our lives.

We Could Run Out of Seats

- We can only fit so many people into our auditorium and keep groups 6 feet apart.
- Running out of seats has not been a problem, but it is possible that we would need to ask you to either stand or take a seat in our lobby. In a way it would be kinda cool if we ran out of seats (Jesus has a history of attracting crowds), but we do apologize for any inconvenience to you.
- Unless entering or exiting, or visiting the coffee bar or restroom, please remain in your seat throughout your attendance.

When You Arrive (Entering & Exiting)

- We will be enjoying no-touch greetings (the more joyful the better).
- Please keep 6 feet of distance between households as you approach and enter the building.
- Please use hand sanitizer as you enter.

Masks or Face Coverings

- Wearing a mask or face covering over your nose and mouth is a requirement for participation. Folks who are not wearing masks will not be allowed entrance to the building and will be asked (nicely) to leave if they remove their mask in any public space.

- Regardless of various views on the effectiveness of masks, we want to lean towards the side of caution and believe when wearing a mask you are communicating "love for neighbor".
- Children under 2 are not required to wear a mask.
- If for any reason you cannot wear a face covering, please participate in our online worship service.
- A limited number of disposable masks are available upon request for anyone who does not have one or forgot to bring theirs to the service.
- Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for maintaining a physical distance of 6-feet from other people.

Social Distancing

- Everyone should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from people not in the same household at all times.
- Only members of the same household or group that arrives together can sit together.
- The rows of chairs in the auditorium are at least 6 feet apart. Households need to sit with either an aisle or 3 empty chairs on both their left and right.
- For those who prefer not to touch anything the back row around the auditorium will be available as "standing room only", and will have markers to designate the 6 feet of social distancing.
- When chairs are used, a designated employee or volunteer will use disinfectant on each chair following the attendees' departure and before the next service begins.

Singing

- Singing is allowed as long as all participants wear a face covering.
- Singing (even with a mask) is a higher-risk activity as it more forcefully expels respiratory droplets than speaking.
- As you listen to our worship leaders sing on stage from a distance of at least 12 feet, try letting their words become your own as you welcome the Holy Spirit and offer him the worship within your heart.

Communion and Offering

- If we do communion, it will only be offered in pre-packaged, individualized cups.
- Offerings will be received online through our app or website.
- There will be a stationary basket that people can put their offering in if they do not wish to give online. But, no baskets will be passed for financial tithes and offerings.

Ministry Time

- We will still pray for one another, but without “laying on of hands” (touch-free prayer) and keeping 6 feet of distance.
- To receive prayer, go to the front of the auditorium. If you have difficulty hearing while maintaining 6 feet of physical distance, feel free to move to the back of the room or the hallway

Restrooms

- We encourage everyone to regularly wash and/or sanitize their hands.
- Additionally, between each service all restroom surfaces will be disinfected (including all door handles).

Children’s & Youth Ministry

- Vineyard Kids Cohorts are available for children from 0-5th grade at the 9 and 11am in-person services. Learn more about Cohorts and sign up [here](#). Cohorts are capped at a maximum capacity of 10 children per classroom. Every week children will be placed in the same classroom with the same kids in order to limit the risk of exposure.
- The Well (Jr. High Ministry) will be open for children in grades 6-8. Check-in will be required for participating students.
- Activities will continue to be provided online for children, youth, and families.
- Anyone under the age of 14 and able to move on their own must be accompanied by an adult and remain within six feet of their adult while at our facilities.
- We encourage parents/caregivers who do not want to bring their children into the service or participate in a Vineyard Kids Cohort to consider having one parent attend the 9am and the other attend the 11am service so you both can attend.

Vineyard Brew

- The coffee bar will be open serving free coffee and will have specialty coffee and baked goods available for purchase. All coffee will be ordered and handed out by coffee bar volunteers. No self-serve options will be available at this time.
- Once you receive your order, please find a seat at the tables in the lobby or in the auditorium. You must be seated in designated areas whenever eating or drinking. Please no lingering or loitering in the lobby.
- Limited seating will be available in the lobby. Please maintain 6 ft of physical distance between households or groups who arrived together while seated in the lobby.
- Please continue wearing your mask at all times when you are not actively eating or drinking.
- We will not be refilling coffee mugs or other cups. You will receive a new cup or dish each time you order. Please place used mugs in the cart labeled Return Coffee Mugs Here.

- High touch surfaces in the coffee bar (e.g. seats, tables, door handles, touch screens) will be disinfected at least every half hour.

Employees & Volunteers

- This group of people will be screened as they arrive Sunday morning, with a temperature check and a personal health checklist. Anyone experiencing a temperature or symptoms will be sent home.

Vaccinations

- Even after a person has recovered from COVID-19 or is fully vaccinated they should still continue to stay distanced, wear a mask that fits well, wash their hands often, and follow all other precautions.

If You Have COVID-19 And Attend Our In-Person Worship Service

- If you attend an in-person worship service and are later diagnosed with COVID-19, please call 218-525-3462 and let us know ASAP.
- While respecting your privacy, we want to inform others that they may have been exposed.

If You Have Questions, Concerns or Complaints, We'd Love to Talk

- You can call us at 218-525-3462 or send an email to info@duluthvineyard.org
- For more information, our Duluth Vineyard COVID-19 Preparedness Plan is available on our website and posted within our facilities.
- We need everyone to take safety seriously. Really, we're just asking that we all love each other really well - like Jesus. Thank you!