

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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COVID-19 Response Policy

Approved by Council on 23 July 2020

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
COVID-19 Response Policy**

1. Introduction

In light of the everchanging forecast of information regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic, the council at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (TELC) has put together a COVID-19 Response Policy to address how future operations will proceed.

The framework and basis for this policy has been formed under the guidance of the PA Department of Health, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the ELCA's Lower Susquehanna Synod (LSS). As a business we are required to follow the Order signed by the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health enforced on April 19, 2020, and expanded on July 1 2020, and again on July 15, 2020. As disciples of Christ commanded by the Lord to love our neighbor, the council has taken into consideration recommendations put forth by the LSS of the ELCA and other ecumenical bodies. For more information please visit:

PA Department of Health General Order: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200415-SOH-worker-safety-order.pdf>

ELCA:

<https://www.lss-elca.org/coronavirus/>

2. Definitions

- 2.1. Social Distance - Defined by PA Dept of Health = 6 feet
- 2.2. Property of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - Includes not only the physical building but all owned property, plant and equipment.
- 2.3. Building Capacity estimates
 - 2.3.1. Sanctuary – 200
 - 2.3.2. Annex – 125
 - 2.3.3. Chapel -- 50
- 2.4. Masks - Face coverings following the PA department of health guidelines.
(See Appendix 1)
- 2.5. Church related business - anything that involves the execution of our mission statement including but not limited to Committee and Council Meetings and any other church sponsored event.

“We are a family of Christian Disciples, committed to making Christ known, while loving and serving God and neighbors”

COVID-19 Adaptations for Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

- Face masks – Unless otherwise stated, requirements for masks will be governed by the mandates issued by the PA Department of Health.
 - Indoors – Must be worn when entering and while inside the facility,
 - Outdoors – Must be worn when social distancing cannot be achieved and maintained.
 - See Special requirements for Worship Gatherings below.
- Employees or anyone participating in activities at TELC who are feeling ill or have a temperature of 100.4 or higher will stay home
- Tele-meetings are highly encouraged. If tele-meeting is not possible, follow the PA Department of Health guidelines for social distancing.
- In addition to a facility usage agreement, groups using the facility must sign and follow a facility usage rider. See appendix 2.
- Signs will be placed at the entrances instructing people who enter to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.
- Only one bathroom and stall will be made available for use. Persons using the bathroom will be responsible for cleaning after each use. Supplies will be provided. This procedure is subject to change when in person worship resumes.
- Groups outside of TELC who are using the facility will clean/disinfect high touched areas
- Worship gatherings - Due to the nature of highly restrictive recommendations that would hinder the spirit of our in person worship and the fellowship of our gatherings, TELC council has suspended in-person worship. However, Council will continue to assess and explore in person worship opportunities and determine the best course of action moving forward. Here are some of the recommendations being put forth if we were to resume in person worship:
 - Masks will be required for all in-person worship and other church business gatherings indoors and outdoors
 - Do everything to reduce risk.
 - The safest plan is for parishioners to stay home.
 - Gatherings should be limited to the maximum capacity allowed by the state of PA at the time of the gathering.
 - Open windows and doors when and if possible
 - Do not sing, or speak in unison, even outdoors.
 - No gathering children for the children's message.
 - Insist that congregants stay home if they feel sick or were exposed to anyone who had COVID-19 .
 - Keep hand sanitizer readily available.
 - Remove materials that could be handled, such as hymnals, Bibles and visitor cards.
 - Disinfect all surfaces between services.
 - Altered communion and offering practice

Appendix 1

WHAT TYPE OF MASK DO I NEED? 		
HOMEMADE MASK OR PAPER MASK	SURGICAL MASK	N95 RESPIRATOR
		
WHO SHOULD WEAR: General public	WHO SHOULD WEAR: Health care workers and patients in health care settings	WHO SHOULD WEAR: Health care workers
WHEN TO WEAR: When a person can't perform social distancing; scarves and bandanas can be used if necessary.	WHEN TO WEAR: During single or multiple patient interactions or routine health procedures; recommended when N95s aren't available.	WHEN TO WEAR: Caring for patients with COVID-19 and performing procedures that put them most at risk of virus exposure.
USE LIMITATIONS: Cloth masks should be washed after each use; don't wear damp or when wet from spit or mucus.	USE LIMITATIONS: Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter. Extended use is preferable to reuse.	USE LIMITATIONS: Ideally should be discarded after each patient encounter. Extended use is preferable to reuse.



Trinity Facilities Use Agreement Rider

In light of the current 2019 Novel Coronavirus pandemic, Trinity's council has decided to put into place some additional provisions to help ensure the safety of our building and those who occupy it. These measures are mandated with all businesses in Pennsylvania through the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Order that went into effect in April, 2020 and was updated twice in July 2020. Here are the additional provisions:

Additional Provisions

- Masks shall be worn by all those in attendance per the Order of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Masks will be required when inside TELC facilities. While outdoors masks may be removed, but must be worn if maintaining social distancing (6 feet) cannot be met.
- Surfaces that are frequently touched must be wiped with disinfectant before leaving the building.
- Maintain social distancing (6 feet) at all times. [when possible]

Signature: _____ Date: _____