

PLAN FOR REOPENING THE NEW MARKET SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON
WORSHIP SERVICES

I. Why Have a Special Plan? There are at least three reasons. First, Phase III of the Virginia Governor's reopening plan requires certain procedures to be put in place. Second, the church board recognizes that meeting indoors presents increased challenges to blunting the effects of a virus like COVID-19. We want to do our best to protect everyone, and particularly those that are more vulnerable to infection. Anyone can contract COVID-19, of course, but those who are older, or who have conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, etc., can be particularly vulnerable to the disease. Our plan reflects our best attempts to protect all attendees while still providing a meaningful worship service. Third, there is still much we do not know about COVID-19. We are consequently forming a comprehensive plan that will be a safety net to help span that knowledge gap.

II. Are the Requirements in This Plan Mandatory for ALL Attendees? Yes. For the safety of our congregation, those refusing to comply with the requirements of the plan will not be allowed to attend. Please do not plan to attend in-building services if you do not intend to comply with all requirements.

III. What's the Plan for Sabbath Worship? Please read carefully all of the following:

- No Sabbath Schools will be meeting in the building at this time.
- If you have had a fever or any symptoms of COVID-19, or had a known exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you may not enter the building.
- If you are currently sick, please do not attend in-building services.
- If you are at increased risk for contracting COVID-19 due to other health conditions, you may attend the in-building service. However, our COVID-19 procedures do not guarantee you will not catch COVID-19 while in our church building. You may wish to consider attending online or at our in-person outdoor worship service at SVAE.
- Masks are required at all times for those age 10 or older while in the building except when on the platform. Those younger than 10 are encouraged to wear a mask. As we all know, no one likes to wear a mask! But it is an essential measure to take if we are to minimize the risk of infection in our congregation. Again, if you refuse to wear a mask, you will not be allowed in the building.
 - NOTE: Currently, there is no medical exception to the mask requirement at our church. If for medical reasons you do not wear a mask, we regretfully ask that you not attend our indoor service. Please attend our outdoor or online services instead.
- Forgot your mask? Our greeters will cheerfully provide you with one.
- Maintain six feet (6') of separation at all times (except for families/those that live together)
- Please ENTER the building only at the carport entrance.
- Carport entrance doors will be unlocked at 10:00 AM Sabbath mornings. This is done to:
 - a) allow the livestream production crew to make needed preparations for the livestream service; and b) to keep our time in the sanctuary/building to a minimum.

- Service will start at 10:15 AM.
- As a general rule, please keep foot traffic flowing from the carport side of the church to the church office side of the church. For instance:
 - When you enter the building at the carport entrance, please enter the sanctuary from the doors on that side of the sanctuary.
 - When you exit the sanctuary, please use the exits on the church office side of the building.
 - Please use the restrooms on the church office side of the building.
- Please sit in every other pew only (closed pews will be marked as such), and maintain six feet of separation in that pew from other non-family/housemate people. Note that the pews will be marked off every six feet so you can distance appropriately.
- Due to how COVID-19 is transmitted, at this time, there will sadly be no congregational singing. We will reinstate congregational singing as soon as the evidence makes that prudent. Special numbers performed from the front, however, will still take place.
- No offering plates will be passed during the in-person service.
- To facilitate social distancing, ushers will dismiss you after the service is concluded. Ushering starts with the section closest to the church office and proceeds across the rest of the sanctuary. Please plan accordingly.
- Please EXIT the building using the church office entrance only. (For emergency purposes, you may of course exit using any door.)
- One person at a time in the restrooms (please make use the “OCCUPIED” sign that will be on the bathroom entrance door). Those who require assistance may take someone with them.
- Avoid gathering in groups that block walking traffic flow in the building. NOTE: Realistically, given the size of our hallways, any group larger than two people who are appropriately social distancing will block traffic flow.
- If weather permits, please socialize outside of the building.
- In the event of bad weather, those who wish may stay in the pews at six feet apart and socialize, as long as their presence does not interfere with sanitizing efforts after a service.
- By attending the indoor service, you give permission for us to generically (i.e., your name will not be used) announce if you had COVID-19 while at our worship service. This will alert others who may have been exposed to you at the worship service to be on the lookout for symptoms in themselves.

IV. How Will the Building be Sanitized? The church building will be sanitized both before and after Sabbath services according to the guidelines prescribed by the CDC (see guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>). A COVID-19 Safety Team will oversee the sanitizing measures being taken for the building.

V. Thank You for Your Help! COVID-19 has been a major intrusion into our lives. By complying with the steps of the above plan, we can help our campus family avoid deeper health and social complications. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Shane at shane3146@gmail.com, or text/call 540-335-7178.