



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
WELLNESS AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT**

Ministerial Building, Kingstown,  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

## **PROTOCOL FOR CHURCH SERVICES**

### **UPON ARRIVAL:**

- ✚ All members should sanitize their hands upon arrival using available hand sanitizing stations.
- ✚ Persons with pre-existing conditions should be encouraged to stay at home. Church services should be streamed where possible to include members who must remain at home.
- ✚ If it is not possible to practice physical distancing, face masks or coverings should be worn for the duration of the service. The proper technique for wearing face masks should be followed.

### **DURING THE SERVICE:**

- ✚ Running water and liquid soap must be available
- ✚ Encourage congregants and staff to maintain good hand hygiene during the service by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- ✚ In the absence of soap and running water, hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol (for those who can safely use hand sanitizer) should be used. Disposable tissue and no-touch trash cans should be available.
- ✚ Encourage congregants and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Tissue should be immediately thrown in the trash and hands washed. In the absence of a tissue, encourage members to cough and sneeze inside their elbow.
- ✚ The use of handkerchiefs should be discouraged.



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**COMMUNION:**

- ✚ Hand sanitizer should be used by all servers and pastors.
- ✚ Use alternative methods of handing out bread (tongs or tweezers), or allow members to bring their own bread for communion.
- ✚ Do NOT allow congregants to touch the bread.
- ✚ Drinking from a common cup should NOT be permitted.

**DEPARTURE:**

- ✚ When departing allow members to depart church in an orderly and safe manner.
- ✚ Avoid hand-shaking or any other form of contact greetings among members.

**CLEANING AND DISINFECTING OF HIGH TOUCH AREAS:**

- ✚ All microphones should be disinfect and cleaned after service.
- ✚ Disinfect door handles, benches, chairs, counters, desktop, keyboards and any other office supplies.
- ✚ Replenish tissue, hand sanitizer and hand soap stations.
- ✚ Clean and disinfect drinking fountains and replenish disposable cups where necessary
- ✚ Empty trash cans throughout the building.

**PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

- ✚ Churches should encourage families that live in the same household to sit together but be seated at least 6 feet from other families.
- ✚ Other members should sit at least 6ft away from each other with no direct contact to another member in front of, behind or next to that member.
- ✚ If possible, marks should be placed on approved seating areas to guide other members.
- ✚ Note that this will significantly decrease the number of persons allowed at services.



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- ✚ Please visit the following link which provides additional guidance for physical distancing: <https://www.facebook.com/SVGHEALTH/videos/930959590686917/>

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.(Philippians 4:6-7)

*Please note that this document may be revised at any time at the discretion of the Health Services Subcommittee of the National Emergency Committee/COVID-19 Task Force, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment.*

Revised June 18 2020