

Burke Presbyterian Church (BPC) COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Plan

BPC will follow all directives from the Federal and State public health agencies and from the Fairfax County Health Department, as well as from the Fairfax Public Schools Administration for our preschool, that we feel are prudent to limit transmission of COVID-19 at Burke Presbyterian Church. In the extraordinary event of cancellation of services and other church activities, we will communicate those decisions to you electronically by email and on our church website (<https://www.burkepreschurch.org>). Current prevention measure which we are implementing at this time are as follows:

- 1) Frequently wash hands with soap and warm water and/or use hand sanitizer. Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands, except after sanitizing your hands.
- 2) When attending church or church activities, try not to make skin-to-skin contact (shaking hands, hugging) with anyone, to include interactions with the greeters, ushers, during Passing of the Peace, and with the Pastor after the service – instead of shaking hands or hugging, you are encouraged to nod or bow with your hands together. Note this is for your benefit as well as being respectful of others in our congregation, who may not welcome uninvited contact.
- 3) Cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm. Dispose of all used tissues used to blow or wipe your nose in a refuse container. Use of disposable tissues is preferred. If coughing or sneezing during Services, consider removing yourself either to the library (if there are not already others in that room) or to your home. The ushers will ask those to do so who they feel may be endangering others.
- 4) Adults, youth, and children should not attend church or other church activities if they have a respiratory illness or feel like they are coming down with one (sore throat, runny nose, fever, shortness of breath, etc.) until coronavirus has been ruled out by a medical authority or it has been at least 5 days since their full recovery. Family members should not attend either, whether ill or not, as they may be incubating and shedding the virus, which could spread to others. Family members should not return to church until at least 14 days have passed since anyone in your household has been ill.
- 5) If you are over 60 years old OR of ANY age and have a chronic medical condition like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, liver and kidney problems, etc., –

or any underlying problem that makes you either more susceptible to infection (compromised immune system) or which could result in severe medical complications if infected with coronavirus, you might consider not attending any church activities (and also limiting any contact with the general public whenever you can prevent it).

- 6) If you have recently taken a cruise or otherwise recently traveled outside the country, particularly to one where coronavirus is being transmitted, we recommend that you consider not attending church services or other activities for at least 14 days.
- 7) When attending church or other church activities, if space is available, when selecting your seats, we encourage you to spread out across the Meeting House or other rooms trying to keep at least 3 feet of distance between you and others (it is fine for your family members to sit closely together).
- 8) View live streaming of the Services at home on your computer, phone, or tablet or in the library if you feel that the meeting house is getting too crowded. If you need any assistance in learning or using this technology, please contact the church office at 703 - 764-0456, and we will put you in touch with a church member who can assist you.
- 9) Offering collection: We will not be passing the collection plate during the offertory in order to discourage touching of surfaces that others have touched. We are encouraging you to either drop your offering in the collection plates by the door as you leave the meeting house or give on-line using the ENGAGE application on the BPC website. Alternatively, you may mail your check to the church office.
- 10) For Communion: We will use cut up pieces of bread large enough to dip in the cup without having one's fingers come into contact with the juice. The bread will be arranged on trays or in baskets such that the pieces can be easily picked up without contacting other pieces of bread. Parents should assist their children and others who may require assistance.
- 11) Instructions for greeters/ushers:
 - a. If anyone is observed upon entry to have a cold, or otherwise appears ill, please have a private conversation with them to determine if they would be better off returning home, or possibly participating in the service from the library.
 - b. If during the service, someone is coughing more than just occasionally (clearing their throat), if practicable, ask them to remove themselves in a gentle and caring manner.
 - c. Place the offering plates on a chair by the exits for individuals to place their offering in as they depart the meeting house. Stand within view of the offering plates to ensure the security of the offerings.

In the future, depending on the community Risk, measures to be implemented may include:

- 12) If needed, consider canceling Sunday school classes and other gatherings (Rainbow, youth connections, choir, small groups, etc.) where social distancing cannot easily occur.
- 13) If needed, consider dismissal of all church services and other church-based activities including Preschool, but permit staff members to continue to work at the church.
- 14) If needed, consider closing the church completely, including the Preschool and also all activities of those organizations that rent space from us.