

Building Re-Opening Guidelines Bayview Glen Church

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Letter from Pastor Lucas

Dear friends,

I can't tell you how excited I am that government restrictions are beginning to lift, and we are able to gather for worship once again at a limited capacity. And I'm glad for two reasons: (1) I'll get to see you soon and; (2) restrictions lifting means the curve is flattening so that's a good thing too!

In what follows, you'll find our comprehensive plan for adhering to health and safety best practices in order to keep our congregation safe. In building this plan, we consulted recommendations from the World Health Organization, Centre for Disease Control, Toronto Public Health, York Region Public Health, and several organizations, both public and private, that are similar to Bayview Glen. We attempted to think through every aspect of our worship services—parking, entrance/exit, cleaning and disinfection protocols, communication, and employee and Serve team member training.

Please understand, our primary goal is that our congregation (especially those in higher risk categories) are as safe as possible when we return. My prayer is that this document reminds you that God has given our staff and elders a unique love for this church. In short, we are committed to caring for you well!

God's best to you,

Lucas



How We Treat Each Other

Unprecedented. Have you heard that word lately? Truly, these are unprecedented times; but have you considered that these times are unprecedented for our relationships too? As we have navigated the impact of COVID-19 on our economy, our cities, our grocery-buying and gas-getting, many of us have felt a significant impact on our relationships as well. And while a transition back to our facility is exciting, I expect that there will be some difficult moments. For example, what if the friend that always runs up to you in the foyer for a huge hug doesn't do it anymore? Or what if the friend that is usually gregarious and engaged seems standoffish as she tries to navigate social distancing. These moments can be difficult because, oftentimes, we begin to judge a person's motives. "She's not hugging me because she doesn't like me" or "He seems aloof because he leaves right after service" or "Wow, that person was really close...don't they care about my health?"

This is where Ephesians 4:32 has to govern our hearts and minds. Paul writes, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ forgave you." So, when we regather, be gracious. Be kind. Be compassionate. Give the benefit of the doubt. Forgive. Bear with one another. Pursue unity. Seek to understand. Why? Because we have an unprecedented (there's that word again!) opportunity now to show everyone that we are [His] disciples by our love for one another (John 13:35).



Before You Come...

Should I attend?

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have travelled internationally in the last 14 days, we ask that you join us for our online service. If you are part of a particularly high-risk category (e.g. older adults, pre-existing health conditions, compromised immune systems, etc.), we ask that you consider joining us online as well. We are committed to continuing our online worship service and online ministry programs in the same manner and quality. In other words, if you don't join us physically, you're not missing out!!

Early Arrival

As we will likely need a bit more time to enter the building, we ask that you plan to arrive 20 minutes early to the service you're attending.

Capacity and Registration

In order to help us adhere to the 30% maximum capacity, we have implemented a registration tool for our services. We will count people as they enter the building in order to ensure that we don't exceed 30% capacity. We are asking for a level of diligence here from our congregation. When you arrive, you will be asked to check in with a Serve Team member.



When You Get Here...

Parking

As you pull on to our campus, you'll see an energetic team welcoming you back. And with a seating capacity of 270, that means our parking lot will be far less full. For that reason, we ask that you leave one full space in between your vehicle and the next vehicle. This will help us maintain social distance in the parking lot as we arrive and leave.

Entering

Once you park, we ask that you proceed to the south side of the building and use the entrance just off of Steeles Ave. We will have clearly marked signage outside of our facility, so you'll know just where to go. The upper entrance, kids wing entrances, and café entrances will all be locked. Using a single entrance gives us the ability to count all those who enter our building.

On the sidewalks outside the building, one of our team will greet you with a smile and a quick squirt of hand sanitizer. If you have skin sensitivities, we ask that you bring a sanitizing product that works for you and be prepared to use it on your way in.

The next smiling face you'll see will offer you a mask. In fact, we are requiring masks for anyone who attends a corporate gathering at Bayview Glen. We ask that you bring your own mask and make it fun! If you do not have a mask to bring, we will provide a disposable surgical mask for you.

A side note from Pastor Lucas on masks: "I know they're uncomfortable. (Try preaching in one!) However, sometimes, when we are a part of a family, we do uncomfortable things in order to serve our family. After our government made the announcement regarding restrictions lifting, I got a call from a 93-year-old BGC ministry partner who wanted to know, 'When are we going back?' He's one of my favourites. What a gem. And since he's high-risk and masks have been proven to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we are going to do this for guys like that."



Finally, you will be asked to check in with a team member to confirm your registration and the number of people that are attending with you. If you have not registered, you will be directed to a table where you can do so. Our team members will collect your name, number of people with you, and some contact information—it'll take less than 60 seconds! —and then you can head on in.



Once You're Inside...

Entering the Sanctuary

There will be team members in the foyer to direct you to one of four entrances to the sanctuary (e.g. entrance 1, 2, 3, or 4). This will help us prevent “back-ups” at our sanctuary doors.

Social Distancing

Inside the foyer and sanctuary, we ask that you diligently adhere to social distancing guidelines and remain at least 2 meters from other congregants wherever possible. In our sanctuary, we have roped off every other row in order to maintain a 2-meter space between each worshipper. Inside the row itself, feel free to sit with your “bubble” (those you’re isolating with) but leave 3 seats between you and the next family or worshipper. We will have ushers assisting with seating arrangements. We will seat from the front of the sanctuary towards the back as people come in.

Corporate Worship

We will limit our corporate worship gatherings to less than 60 minutes in order to provide ample time between services for cleaning, minimize movement in our congregation (e.g. washroom breaks), and create a worship service that works best for our kids. Apart from a decreased service time, you can expect something very similar to what you love about BGC—worship, preaching, and time together.

York Region Public Health is discouraging congregational singing in places of worship, so we are discouraging congregational singing as well (we know, this one stings for us too). While we can’t completely prevent singing, we ask that you are respectful of others in the congregation and engage with the music in a different way—kneel, raise a hand, pray, reflect, etc. Hey, this may even help us grow a little in the ways we engage! How cool!

But just so it’s clear...we will still have live worship and it will be great! Band members will be wearing masks and vocalists will sing from behind a small, clear plastic shield (it’ll be weird for about 30 seconds and then we’ll be fine!). On communion days, we will provide small, personal “communion kits” as you enter so that we can safely participate in communion together.



We will no longer pass offering plates during the service. We encourage you to use our digital giving platform or use a self-sanitizing (yep, seriously!) iPad in the foyer. If you are looking to use cash or checks, we will have a secure drop box available for you to use on your way out of the sanctuary.

We will be holding two services each Sunday—one at 10 am and one at 5 pm in order to give us time to properly sanitize the facility between services.

Kids and Youth

At this time, we have chosen not to reopen our children's wing or restart in-person gatherings for youth. However, upon entering the foyer, you will see clearly marked signage directing you to custom curriculum designed for pre-school, elementary, and youth. The curriculum is created specifically to help your child or youth engage with our corporate worship environment. It will be a great opportunity for families to worship together.

Sanitizing Practices

While you are on campus, several of our staff and Serve team members will be working hard to sanitize water fountains and washrooms. Inside the facility, we will lock every door open so that you won't need to touch door handles. Additionally, we will provide hand sanitizing stations across our campus so that you can sanitize your hands regularly.

After EVERY service, we will have a cleaning crew come in and sanitize all public spaces. We have already purchased high-grade sanitizing spray and will follow all of the manufacturer's instructions in order to ensure proper function.



When You Leave...

In order to maintain social distancing protocols, we ask that the back row exits the sanctuary first followed by the row just in front of it and so on until our sanctuary is empty. The Pastor giving the benediction will provide instructions at the conclusion of the service and our ushering team will be there to help facilitate a socially distant exit. And while we love it when you stick around and chat, please do so in the foyer or parking lots (2 meters apart of course!) so that our team is able to sanitize the facility.



FAQs

What if someone takes off their mask or isn't following social distancing protocols?

Kindly ask them to put their mask back on or maintain proper distance. If they refuse to do so, please request assistance from a Bayview Glen staff member or elder wearing a clearly marked name tag.

Are you sure I'll be safe?

We can't guarantee that you'll be safe. We can only guarantee that we have done more than the government requires in order to keep you safe. Additionally, we will continue to provide online worship services for those who are not yet comfortable gathering in person.

When will you reopen Bayview Kids and Bayview Youth?

We don't know. We are closely monitoring the government recommendations and will reopen Bayview Kids and Bayview Youth as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then, enjoy this awesome opportunity to worship as a family!

What if you find out that someone who has attended a service has contracted COVID-19?

We will be transparent. We would not disclose the name of the individual(s) who has been diagnosed (for privacy reasons), but we will inform you that someone has tested positive. Our service registration tool will allow us to directly contact every person that attended a service that a COVID-19 patient attended.

