

June 5, 2020

## Dear Quest Friend:



As we head toward reopening in person ministries, we want to let you know what we are doing to be responsible and safe in this time. While churches are technically exempt, we are still working to operate as other businesses would within the guidelines recommended by the state. Our guides have been direct conversation with the Ohio Department of Health, the practices many businesses are required to do in order to be open, and our decision to meet in person was confirmed when ODH came out saying that weddings and funerals up to 300 people were now permissible. Like businesses, we can operate within the social distancing and sanitation guidelines. So, we are confident it is time to begin in-person ministry again, while continuing to minister to those who are at high risk or are not yet personally comfortable with meeting in-person.

## **Schedule of Reopening**

- Sunday, June 5 *Live at the Lot* is our service held in the parking lot at 10 AM. We will ask cars to park every other parking space side to side, and for those who want to bring lawn chairs, the car in the front will put their chairs near the front of their car, and for the car in the back, the chair near the back of their vehicle so as to provide solid social distancing space for one another.
- Sunday, June 14 *In-Person Services* at 9:15 and 11 AM. We are creating socially distanced seating pods for different sizes of families. See more safety measures below.
- Sunday June 14 Small Groups Can Begin Meeting In-Person in the Quest Building. We ask groups to practice social distancing and help by sanitizing tables and door handles your group uses at the end of your meeting.
- Due to parent feedback, we have not yet determined when we will restart children's ministry. When we do, we have lots of ideas of how to protect the health of the kids—we will give more information on that in the future. In the meantime, our services will be more family friendly and shorter until we restart children's ministry.
- Online Ministry will continue, and we have plans to expand it going forward so as to minister effectively to those who are high risk or not comfortable coming back in person yet. Relationships are still the mission, so we will be working to encourage and increase practical ways we can foster relationship even though not in person.

## What We Are Doing To Create A Safe Place

- For weekend services, to the greatest extent possible, we will be having Welcome Team members holding the doors open so hopefully only their hands will be touching the door handles into the building and auditorium.
- We have replaced and added additional hand sanitizing stations around the church, please use them liberally.
- We will have tables outside each bathroom entrance with paper towels you can use to open the door and hand sanitizer you can use after you exit the bathroom.
- We created seating pods that are socially distanced side-to-side 6 feet from other seating pods. Because of the study of "forced expulsion" (into which category singing falls) we are spacing the rows 10 feet apart front to back. We can still seat around 130 people without using lobby, café, or Pre-K overflow.

- We are asking all staff and volunteers to wear masks with the exception of when they are speaking/teaching in a larger group. We recognize the conflicting opinions on masks. This requirement reflects our desire to go the extra mile in being safe. We will have free, extra masks available for volunteers or attenders who want them.
- We will be asking volunteers to use our no touch temperature scanner and if they have a fever of 100 or greater (the CDC policy), to excuse themselves from service that day. We realize if you are in a rush and walking fast, your temperature may be up momentarily simply from exertion, so it is fine if your temperature is up to wait 5 minutes, cool down and then take it again.
- We will be doing our best to do a quick disinfecting of door handles and areas where people sit (like the café
  tables) between services. If you are particularly passionate about safety, we could use volunteers to help make
  this into a guarantee.
- We will not be doing food or drink service through the café yet. Water will still be available, self-serve.
- We will be putting signs on every other table in the café asking that people not sit there, so as to help with social distancing.
- If the lobby gets too full of people, we may hold people outside the front doors until such time as they can safely transit the lobby and be reasonably socially distanced.
- We are working to have the Welcome teams be a little larger and have ushers who can help your family find the right size seating pod or adjust the size of the seating pods so as to accommodate the number in your family. If you'd like to serve in that way during this time, contact Ross@QuestVineyard.org.
- Though we are starting with 2 services, we will add a third or fourth service, as needed, to ensure social distance in the auditorium and serve all those who wish to attend in person.
- We will have two round tables at the back of the auditorium, two round tables in the lobby, and round tables in the Pre-K room (formerly referred to as the chapel) designed for families with children who might like to color or need a table for an activity. The Children's Ministry will be providing activity resources for the children each Sunday. The lobby will have a live feed of the entire service. The Pre-K (chapel) will have a live feed of the announcements and message.

## What We Are Asking You

- We strongly encourage wearing a mask while singing as the studies on singing indicate that the projection of our air could spread a virus up to 10 to 12 feet during singing. We are encouraging masks in general.
- We ask that you do not shake hands or hug *unless* both parties are explicitly OK with it. So, please ask first and respect each other's boundaries.
- Among us there are varied and often strongly held beliefs as to what should and shouldn't be done in light of Covid19. Our goal in responding in the way we are is:
  - o to express the greatest, compassionate respect we can to one another in response to the pandemic,
  - o to provide as much safety as we reasonably and compassionately can to keep us healthy and,
  - I would hate to see someone not have the opportunity to hear the gospel and come to faith in Jesus because they didn't feel safe coming to Quest.

Thank you for being such a great church, especially during this unprecedented time in our lifetimes. God is good and God is still at work! I and the staff are very much looking forward to seeing you again in person, whenever you decide it is time for you to return in person.

Warmly,
Ross Adelmann