

Kennonsburg United Methodist Church

Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidelines

General Framework

It is important to note that this plan is one part of KUMC's overall response to reducing the exposure to COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses. Other safe practices recommended by health officials include social distancing, frequent hand washing, wearing cloth face coverings, staying home when sick, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces and avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth.

1. Most surfaces and objects will just need normal routine cleaning with soap and water.
2. Frequently touched surfaces and objects like light switches and door knobs will be cleaned first and then disinfected to further reduce the risk of germs on surfaces.
3. Soft and porous materials are generally not as easy to disinfect as hard surfaces. In order to reduce the challenges with cleaning and disinfecting the cloth chairs in the sanctuary, small groups are encouraged to utilize the non-porous seating at the tables in the dining area. There is no indication that the virus remains viable for seven days therefore the soft chairs in the sanctuary will be safe for use despite not having been disinfected.
4. To increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible doors will remain open during service. This also prevents the need to touch handles to enter or exit the building.
5. Disposable wipes are available for members at multiple sanitation stations throughout the building so that commonly used surfaces can be disinfected before use, if desired.
6. A cleaning checklist will be posted in each area of the facility to include small group study rooms, nursery, offices, kitchen and bathroom areas and the fitness room.
7. Small groups using the church facility will, without exception, disinfect the specific area(s) directly after use.
8. Routine cleaning will occur weekly after the Sunday service. This routine cleaning will include all areas where a checklist is posted (see item 6).
9. Disinfectants should not be applied on items used by children, especially any items that children might put in their mouths as they are toxic when swallowed. Cleaning toys and other items used by children with soap and water is sufficient and the method recommended by the CDC.

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High Use Checklist Items

Examples of frequently touched surfaces and objects that need routine disinfection following use are:

- a. tables and chairs
- b. doorknobs
- c. light switches
- d. countertops
- e. handles
- f. desks
- g. phones
- h. keyboards
- i. faucets

Cleaning for Sick Congregants

If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is ill visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary. If less than 7 days, the following cleaning procedures will be taken:

- a. Close off areas visited by the ill persons.
- b. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- c. Wait 24 hours or as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
- d. All areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms and common areas will be cleaned and disinfected.
- e. Once an area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected, it can be reopened for use.

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Mitigating Potential Exposure

The following steps have been temporarily implemented to minimize physical contact and community sharing of worship materials and other items:

- a. Bulletins will be available to pick up from the lobby table rather than being handed out.
- b. A stationary collection basket will be available to place your offering instead of passing it around.
- c. Limited physical contact (e.g., shaking hands or hugging) during greeting time.
- d. One-way traffic flow (entering through the lobby and exiting rear doors) allows for social distancing.
- e. Entrance and exit doors will remain open eliminating the need to touch handles.
- f. Sanctuary chairs have been configured to allow for social distancing between families.
- g. Worshippers will be seated and dismissed in a way that allows for continued social distancing.
- h. KUMC's Newsletter will continue to be published to keep our church family connected and informed.
- i. KUMC will continue to record and post online the weekly message allowing members to worship from home.

Moving Forward

This plan is intended to reduce exposure to respiratory illnesses and provide information to our congregation to enable each family to make the decision as to whether it is safe for their family to attend in-person services at KUMC. We will continue to revise and update our plan based on updated guidance and our current circumstances. For any questions, concerns or recommendations regarding this plan, or if further clarification is needed on an issue, please contact the chairperson on the board of trustees Julia Robinson at (740) 679-3178.

