



Christian Reformed Church of Pease

Building with Faith • Laboring With Love • Inspiring with Hope

July 23, 2020

Dear Congregation at Pease CRC,

On Wednesday, July 22, 2020, MN Governor Tim Walz signed Emergency Executive Order 20-81 – “Requiring Minnesotans to Wear a Face Covering in Certain Settings to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19.” This new order has implications for how we at Pease CRC gather for in-person corporate worship.

As we learn more and more about the coronavirus and how it spreads via aerosolized particles, more and more evidence is pointing to the fact that wearing face masks helps to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Minnesota has now become the 29th state, along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to require doing so in an effort to help stop the surging number of cases in the state and across the country.

At the heart of the order is the requirement that “Minnesotans must wear a face covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings...” This includes indoor corporate religious gatherings such as worship services.

The leadership at Pease CRC has taken the position that we will, to the best of our ability, comply with all requirements and recommendations from our duly elected government officials and other experts and professionals during this pandemic. Now is not the time or place, and this is not a situation in which ‘civil disobedience’ is biblically justifiable.

This being the case, the following procedures will be implemented for all persons choosing to attend in-person corporate worship starting Sunday, July 26, 2020:

1. Everyone entering the building for Sunday morning worship will be required to wear a mask for the entirety of the time they are in the building. If you do not have a mask, we will have a limited number available for you as you enter. However, we strongly urge you to bring your own.
2. All of the previous requirements pertaining to social-distancing for entry, seating, and exit procedures before, during, and after the worship service will be retained.
3. As per the executive order the following exemptions will be granted:
 - a. “Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering.” If this is the case for you, simply notify the greeters as you enter the building of your situation.
 - b. “Children who are five years old and under.” This is, of course, at the discretion of parents. If you would like your children to wear a mask parents are free to have them do so.

c. When testifying, speaking, or performing in an indoor business or public indoor space...provided that social distancing is always maintained.” This means that all persons who involved with leading a praise team or speaking during the worship service will be allowed to remove their masks while they are leading from the front of the sanctuary. When they are not participating in worship from the pulpit area they will be required wear a mask.

If you would prefer, you are welcome and encouraged to participate in our Sunday morning worship services via livestream on our YouTube channel or via the radio at 1300AM or 107.5FM. We, and the Triune God whom we worship, will gladly welcome you however and from wherever you choose to join us!

Finally, a note of thanks. Since our return to in-person corporate worship those who have chosen to attend have handled themselves with grace. Members have been very willing to do what is asked of them during the strange and challenging time in our state. I have no reason to expect that this will change as a result of this new requirement. And it may even allow some who haven't felt comfortable joining us in person because of the lack of a mask requirement to now consider doing so.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like further information about these new procedures, please feel free to contact any member of the Administrative Team. You will find their names and contact information listed in your church directories. Thank you!

In Service to Christ and you,

The Administrative Team of Pease CRC