

# DES MOINES GOSPEL CHAPEL

## **In-Person Restart Plans for Des Moines Gospel Chapel.**

We have been looking closely at both the Washington State and King County regulations for restarting in-person church meetings. We also have been monitoring the state and county's risk assessment for COVID-19. The plan that follows comes out of our desire for balancing the safety of our congregants, aligning ourselves with state / federal regulations and providing the best possible experience for worship and teaching on Sunday. As circumstances change and regulations change our plan may need to be amended or changed to accommodate new information and the needs of our church family.

## **When will Des Moines Gospel Chapel resume in-person meeting together on Sundays?**

We plan to resume gathering, **at the earliest, on August 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The actual date will depend on the public health risk for meeting in a church building like ours, so **this is a tentative date**. We will continue to provide online church teaching and worship until we can all meet together. [DMGC Online Sundays](#)

## **What is the service time?**

Our service time will be at 10am.

## **What precautions related to COVID-19 is DMGC taking?**

As mandated by WA State, everyone will be required to wear a mask before, during and after the service. This includes during singing. Children two years old and younger are not expected to wear a mask.

The seating arrangement of the auditorium will be rearranged to accommodate 6 feet of space between households. The new seating capacity under Phase 2 will be 75 people per service.

Services will be shortened to 1 hour to limit time spent together.

Hand sanitizer will be available to everyone entering and exiting the building.

An offering will be collected and communion celebrated without passing offering bags or communion trays.

There is an offering box on the wall in our main foyer. Online options for giving can also be found on our church website. [DMGC Giving Online](#)

Bottled water and packaged snacks will be supplied as a sanitary alternative to our usual beverages and snacks.

### **What can I do to help ensure a safe environment when we meet?**

Wear a mask. According to guidance from the CDC and our local and state health departments, **masks help limit the spread of COVID-19** by people who have not yet developed symptoms but are already contagious.

If you already have a cloth mask, please plan to bring it. If you don't have a mask of your own, we will have a disposable mask available each Sunday you can use and keep. If you need a mask, please plan to come a little early to pick one up.

We understand that some are not able or not willing to wear a mask. Those individuals are welcome to continue to participate virtually via our Sunday video recordings.

### **What else is going to be different?**

For now, we're asking that, instead of our usual hugs, handshakes, and fist bumps, we communicate our love with warm words of welcome and enthusiastic waves.

Please plan to come 10 minutes before the service starts to avoid a crowd at the door right as the service starts.

When you enter the auditorium, a greeter will help you find the right group of seats for the number of people in your household.

### **I'm coming alone—will I have to sit by myself?**

If you and some friends are comfortable and will be safe sitting together, please feel free.

Consider if you have a friend coming alone whom you could invite to sit with you.

### **Will nursery and children's classes be meeting?**

At this point we are still determining the best way to serve our families and kids in keeping them safe. Childcare, as you might guess, is complicated under COVID-19 regulations. We hope to answer this question in the weeks ahead.

### **Will restrooms be open?**

Yes, but please observe social distancing as best you can. A sign will indicate the recommended restroom capacity. While waiting for the restroom to become available, please keep 6 feet apart.

### **Will we celebrate communion?**

Yes! Instead of passing the elements, we will have sanitary, single-serve cups available at the back of the auditorium on Sundays.

### **I'm not ready or able to resume gathering—will there be a virtual option?**

Yes. We know that some people are unable to regather at this time due to personal vulnerability or caring for someone who is vulnerable, and others are simply not ready. Feel free to stay home. Our service will be recorded and available on our website. [DMGC Online Sundays](#)

### **I'm in a vulnerable group but would like to come—can I?**

At present, the CDC advises that people who are over 65, those who live in a long-term care facility, or individuals of any age who have certain underlying medical conditions are at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

[COVID-19 - Increased Risk Individuals](#)

We strongly encourage those in this group to continue to worship from home. If you have weighed the risks and still prefer to gather with us, you are welcome to do so.

### **Should I stay home if I'm sick?**

Yes, please stay home! If you're feeling unwell, especially if you have a fever 100.4 or higher, cough, sneezing or shortness of breath; you should stay home.

### **When will things start to feel more normal?**

We're looking forward to that day, too! We will continue to pay attention to local and state health metrics, and we will regularly reevaluate our practice and precautions in light of COVID-19 prevalence and the recommendations of health authorities.

### **I have more questions about this—who should I ask?**

Please email [info@dmgc.org](mailto:info@dmgc.org) or call 206.878.2145, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.