

## **Public Gatherings & Relaunch FAQs**

### **When is the relaunch happening?**

As part of our transition back to regular gatherings, we will resume meeting publicly at the Aldgate Memorial Hall at 9am and 11am on Sunday August 2. These gatherings will still have some on-screen elements. We are planning to officially relaunch on Sunday September 6, assuming a COVID spike does not occur between now and then.

### **Can we all fit in the hall with social distancing?**

With the 2sqm rule, we can fit 142 people in the hall, which is comfortably more than we have had at any service this year. We will space out the chairs and encourage households to sit together, to allow for 1.5m spacing between people of different families/households.

### **Do we have a COVID safe plan in place?**

Yes. The plan will be on display at the hall on Sundays, and can also be provided upon request. It includes provision of hand sanitiser, and separate designated entry and exit doors. Appropriate signage will be in place on Sundays.

### **What cleaning will be happening?**

We will have a cleaning team rostered on after each 9am and 11am gathering. They will disinfect chairs, toilet door handles and any other commonly-touched surfaces. Similarly, commonly-touched surfaces in the ministry centre will be disinfected before and after the children's programs, and hand sanitiser will be available there.

### **Will we be following contact-tracing requirements?**

Yes. Every person who attends one of our gatherings will be required to provide their name, address and contact details (if we don't have them already). We will not use this information for any other purposes without permission.

### **Will our gatherings be "back to normal" when we relaunch?**

By September, we are hopeful that our gatherings will be similar to our pre-COVID format. However, for the foreseeable short term, there will be a number of changes. Bibles, pens and leaflets will not be distributed, and any other handling of objects, unless strictly necessary, will be avoided. Offertory giving and contact forms will be online only.

### **Can I hug or shake hands with people?**

We would ask everyone to avoid all physical contact when we meet together, until we advise otherwise. We realise that many of our members are family members and close friends with each other, and that you are comfortable with physical contact together. However, it is unhelpful for people who are concerned about COVID to come to church and see people touching one another. This is a clear and helpful way that we can love one another.

### **Are we going to be singing?**

At this stage we will not be singing in our public gatherings, in line with SA Health advice. We recognise the immense value and joy that singing provides for our Sunday gatherings, and will resume singing as soon as it is deemed appropriate by health authorities.

### **What will be happening with kids?**

Kids are welcome! We will be having the kids talk in the service at 9am. For those unwell or at home, we plan to continue running our online kids church program during August. This can be accessed from home (only in video format, without the interactive chat function), but will also be played during the 9am service in the ministry centre, with appropriate seat spacing, hygiene measures and supervision by safe ministry approved helpers. Regular programs resume in September, with social distancing and COVID-safe measures in place.

### **What will be happening with youth ministry?**

Youth ministry (Basement) will continue to run on Friday nights during school term, with appropriate social distancing measures in place. If you want to receive weekly email updates about our youth ministry, please contact Mark ([mark.curran@trinity.church](mailto:mark.curran@trinity.church)). Youth talks at our 11am service will be put on hold at least until September.

### **Will there be morning tea in between?**

Our regular morning tea format will not be happening in the short term, as it inevitably results in people being congregated closely together for an extended period. We will reassess how this will work for September onwards.

### **Will we have communion?**

We normally have communion on the first Sunday of each month. We will put this on hold for the immediate future, given the level of food handling involved.

### **Can I come if I'm just slightly unwell?**

If you have any cold or flu-like symptoms, we would ask you to stay at home and join us online instead. Even if you are fairly certain your symptoms are not contagious, it is distracting to others during this unique season if such symptoms are obvious. But keep joining in with online church!

### **Will we still be running online church?**

We will run our online church services in a reduced format during the month of August. The Bible reading, sermon, prayers and songs at a minimum will be included. From September onwards, we will not continue producing Trinity Church Aldgate online services, but will make a Trinity network-wide online service available.

### **What's happening with growth groups?**

Most of our growth groups are back to meeting in person, with appropriate restrictions in place. We ask all groups to adhere to state government limits for guests in a residential dwelling, as well as having only one person per 2sqm.

### **What happens if there is a spike or second wave of COVID in SA?**

Our relaunch plans assume zero (or close to zero) COVID cases in SA. If a spike in cases occurs, the Trinity network will reassess our relaunch direction on the basis of government and health department advice. While we want to be back meeting together normally, we do not want to unnecessarily put our members or community at risk.

### **What do I need to do to keep COVID-safe at church?**

Here are 9 easy steps:

1. If you're unwell, stay at home.
2. Bring your own bible (or phone with your bible app).
3. At church, refrain from hugging / handshakes / Hi-5's / kissing
4. Use the hand sanitiser before you enter the hall.
5. Register your attendance at the welcome table (for potential contact tracing).
6. Sit spaced apart (there will be pairs of seats for those within the same household).
7. Kids will stay in until the bible reading, and sit spaced apart in Kids church, and watch Kids church online.
8. Enter via the front door and leave the hall via the side door.
9. Head to one of our morning tea homes (after 9am), or soup lunch homes (after 11am).

**More Questions? Let us know at [aldgate@trinity.church](mailto:aldgate@trinity.church)**