

General Guidelines for Summer 10s

We are excited as a church to begin reopening life together at Grace. To that end, we encourage you, if you are able to do so safely and within your personal comfort level, to join us in our effort to form “Summer 10s”, voluntary in-person gatherings of ten or fewer people. As you make plans to gather, we as a church have put together some guidance to help you think through how to mitigate the risk of potential virus transmission, as well as limit the spread of the virus if exposure does take place.

As an initial matter, we would encourage everyone to monitor and follow the health and safety guidelines provided by federal, state and local authorities. Although Illinois has granted greater freedoms to churches, our Summer 10s are private gatherings that fall under the mandates set forth in the *Restore Illinois* plan. We also encourage you to continue to follow the common sense guidelines we have all been endeavoring to observe (washing our hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, covering our coughs and sneezes, refraining from gathering if we have any symptoms). In addition, we offer the following guidelines, which have informed the church’s thinking about safely reopening, for your consideration if you choose to organize or attend a gathering.

We can think about risk using this formula:

$$\text{Infection Risk (R)} = \text{Exposure (E)} \times \text{Time (T)}$$

The higher the Exposure and the duration of that exposure, Time, the higher the Risk of infection. For our purposes at Grace, most of our efforts will be focused on reducing Exposure, since many of our Summer 10 gatherings may have longer durations, Time.

Factors that reduce exposure:

- **Social Distancing** - maintaining 6 feet between persons who are not a part of your household.
- **Ventilation** - Outdoor meetings with social distancing greatly reduce the likelihood of exposure due to unlimited ventilation, therefore we encourage Summer 10 gatherings to take place outdoors.
- **Large Spaces** - Large rooms with high ceilings lower infection risk because of dilution.
- **Wearing Masks** - Current IDPH guidelines recommend masks be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Other considerations:

- **Set Expectations** - If you are hosting a Summer 10, consider what guidelines you would like to put in place (e.g. restroom use, bring your own food and beverages, bring your own chairs for outdoor seating, etc.). Communicate these expectations to your guests prior to the gathering and be mindful to lead others to adhere to these expectations when gathered. For those attending a gathering, please honor your host by abiding by the expectations they have set. For those hosting and guests, please keep in mind that each individual may have varying comfort levels when gathering, so one person with a high comfort level may make others feel insecure by not following the guidelines set out by the host.
- **Attendance** - Maintain accurate records of who attended gatherings in case someone becomes infected and other attendees need to be notified of possible exposure. Doing so will allow health officials to more easily walk the infected person through the process of contact tracing.