

# **RMLC Phase 4 Plan to Return to Public Worship**

**(current as at 24 June 2020)**

## **Dear Members**

Thanks be to God! With the announcement of Phase 4 restrictions, Leadership Council met 24 June 2020 and discussed plans.

Thank you for continued diligence with 1.5m physical distancing and good hygiene.

If you are on roster for worship, it is vital that you understand RMLC COVID safety procedures and what is expected of you.

## **Gathered worship considerations**

- A maximum of 110 people at the Chapel in Warnbro.
- As per LCA directive, no breakfast, morning tea, or beverages will be available until further notice. If you BYO travel mug, please fill and wash at home.
- Vulnerable people like the elderly and people with chronic health conditions should talk to their doctor about what is appropriate for them. RMLC plans to continue live stream and/or recorded worship for the foreseeable future.
- At the Chapel, the kids table and activity cupboard will be closed for now. Parents/Grandparents are encouraged to bring 'busy bags' for their children/grandchildren. GROW Ministries has some resources too.

## **What if I wake up in the morning and don't feel well?**

- Do not attend worship if you are unwell.
- If you have a cold or flu symptoms, phone your GP for advice.

## **Physical distancing**

- Remain 1.5m apart when greeting and speaking to one another. Greet one another physically distanced (eg smile, wave, or hand over heart). No hugs and handshakes.
- Rows need to be set-up and distanced 1.5m apart. Household groups need to be separated by the 2m2 rule (2 chairs apart).
- If taped or chalked markers are on the floor, follow these instructions.

## **How will we ensure 2 square meter per person limits?**

- Greeters will place signs on church doors when the maximum number of people in the building is reached.
- Greeters will turn people away respectfully when maximum numbers are reached.
- Up to 5 people at the Lions Club and up to 10 people at the Chapel, who are actively serving as "volunteer staff" during worship (eg the Pastor/Lay Reader, Mission Facilitator, musicians, sound desk operator), will not be included in reaching the maximum limit.

## **Entering and Exiting**

- Follow instructions from greeter and any signs.
- Attendance lists of members and guests will still be taken to allow for contact tracing if needed. Phase 4 explicitly directed it is no longer compulsory at “food businesses and licensed premises.” These lists have an additional pastoral care benefit at RMLC to the Pastor and Mission Facilitator as well as for mandatory LCA statistical reporting.
- Avoid gathering in front of the doors to allow others to safely enter and exit.
- Use the foyer of the Chapel as a physically distanced thoroughfare only to the toilets or to exit.
- As in other public spaces, use courtesy and staggered timing to ensure physical distancing is maintained.

## **Toilets**

- Generally, 1 person per toilet, due to square meter and circulation space guidelines. Carers, of course, are permitted to assist as required.
- If waiting, please be conscious of physical distancing at the hand basin and queue well outside the toilet area to allow for circulation space.
- Perform thorough hand washing.

## **How will we encourage good hygiene?**

- Hand sanitizer will be provided at the doors to our worship spaces.
- Cleaning wipes will be used after each worship time to disinfect frequently touched surfaces, including chair backs, door handles, railings, toilet facilities and any other surfaces that may have been touched by multiple people.
- Please sign up for REG or electronically transfer offerings until further notice. If cash offerings are given, counters need to wear gloves and perform hand hygiene immediately after finishing accounting procedures.
- If you need to cough or sneeze, please do so into your elbow or a tissue. Dispose of the tissue in a bin and use hand sanitiser or wash your hands.
- Clean personal property (eg phones and keys) before attending worship and after.
- Rosters: Set-up/Greeters – arrive early and prepared to correct – check that hand washing facilities are in good working order and adequately stocked (eg soap, hot water, paper towel, hand sanitiser, toilet paper).

## **What is our plan for cleaning of communal areas?**

- We need volunteers willing to serve on rosters to ensure cleaning our sites after worship as per Safe Work Australia guidelines. Please email Christina ([radmin@livingwaters.wa.edu.au](mailto:radmin@livingwaters.wa.edu.au)) to go on the cleaning roster.
- Living Waters Lutheran College has also increased their cleaning regimes to be compliant with Covid 19 guidelines.

- RMLC has a responsibility of care for the next users of the shared spaces by performing good hygiene after our use.

### **Holy Communion**

- Pastor Steve has written a covid19 communion protocol which has been trialled for a few weeks at the Chapel. He will explain the procedures during each service.
- Members please remember to maintain 1.5m distancing between household groups when lining up for distribution.

### **What about baptisms, funerals and weddings?**

- These ceremonies are permitted under current government regulations with some restrictions and other requirements.
- Pastor Steve will follow District and LCA guidance regarding baptisms due to the physical distancing challenges.

### **Response Planning**

- If you discover after you have attended worship or a small group of RMLC that you have been in close contact with a person who has or is being tested for COVID-19, inform Pastor Steve.
- Pastor Steve will confidentially inform Monika, Chairperson, who will action a response and make appropriate referrals to a potential COVID-19 related incident in WA.