

Seward United Methodist Church Covid-19 Operation Plan & Pandemic Protocol

Four Corners Health Department has created a [Risk Gauge](#) for the area, including Seward. We will tailor congregational activities based on the risk level as indicated with the Four Corners Gauge. Below is the protocol *approved on October 5, 2020 by the Seward United Methodist Church Administrative Council*. If circumstances change or warrant reconsideration of any of these, pastoral staff is authorized to adapt as appropriate with consultation from the Faith Community Ministry.

***In regard to all activities - wearing masks, regularly washing hands or using hand sanitizer and social distancing is necessary & expected.*

Green *Low Risk of Covid-19 Spread*

When the risk level has been at green for two consecutive weeks, we will resume regular church activities. Worship will continue to be live streamed as an ongoing ministry. Wednesday evening FOCUS activities will resume. Church office will be open more days of the week.

Yellow *Moderate Risk of Covid-19 Spread*

Risk reduction measures will be in place and will remain in effect until a lower risk level is maintained for two consecutive weeks — masks for those attending worship, maintaining social distance, outside activities/meetings when possible, encouragement of Zoom gatherings. Worship will be in person and live streamed. No congregational singing. Office open Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Orange *Elevated Risk of Covid-19 Spread*

When this level is reached, these items immediately go into effect and will remain in effect until a lower risk level is maintained for two consecutive weeks. Worship will be in person and live streamed. Activities and groups should meet outside whenever possible and weather dependent. Risk reduction measures will be in place — masks for those attending worship, maintaining social distance, outside activities/meetings when possible, encouragement of Zoom gatherings. Any small group may choose to not meet or meet via digital means.

Room Limits for Small Groups and Committee Meetings:

- Fellowship Hall - 20 or less
- Parlor - 8 or less
- UMYF Room - 15 or less

Red *Severe Risk of Covid-19 Spread*

When this level is reached, these items will go into effect immediately and will remain in effect until a lower risk level is maintained for two consecutive weeks. The church building will be closed. Staff will work from home except for occasional trips to the church to handle mail and any other essential activity. Worship components will be individually taped and spliced together for worship to be streamed on Sunday mornings. Individual worship leaders may go to church to tape their part of worship. No more than three people at a time in the sanctuary (including the balcony). Small groups will meet via Zoom or other digital means.