

# GUIDELINES FOR RESUMING IN-PERSON GROUP MEETINGS

## INTRODUCTION

As gathering restrictions begin to lift across our county and communities, we are encouraging Saylorville ministries to cautiously resume in-person group meetings. We must be wise and loving, recognizing that while participating in smaller groups is permissible, it is not advisable for every person. Below are guidelines for Saylorville groups to follow in order to help reduce the risk of the spread of the virus to our church and local community.

## BEFORE THE MEETING

- **Identify who is attending.**
  - If possible, limit the group size to 10 people.
  - Individuals should not attend or host within 14 days of any symptoms.
  - Lovingly encourage vulnerable individuals to refrain from attending.
  - Show grace to individuals who may be uncomfortable with meeting in-person.
  - Continue to provide a virtual group meeting option for those not able to physically attend.
  - Meet without children if possible. If your group has several children, consider having men only and women only meetings every other week, or rotating individuals to host child-care.
- **Prepare your meeting space.**
  - Whenever possible meet in open air, outdoor spaces.
  - Sanitize shared spaces in meeting location following CDC guidance related to disinfecting all high touch surfaces.
  - If food will be present, have group members supply their own food and beverages, and do not share food items or utensils.
- **Encourage group members to practice personal safety.**
  - Ensure physical distancing is possible.
  - Consider wearing a mask.

## DURING THE MEETING

- Have guests wash hands or apply hand sanitizer upon arrival.
- Avoid physical contact between group members.
- Maintain proper physical distancing (6 feet recommended).

## AFTER THE MEETING

- Have guests wash hands or apply hand sanitizer upon departure.
- Sanitize shared spaces again.

*Thanks to our friends at Cornerstone Church in Ames for their thoughts on these guidelines.*

