

NC4 Connect Groups, Bible Studies & Ministries

Phase 1 Reopening

June 5, 2020

- **At NC4 Facilities** - We are not yet ready to open church facilities for Connect Groups, Bible Studies and Ministries that meet onsite. Facilities remain restricted to essential staff and authorized contractors for maintenance, repairs and renovations. We are working on a plan as part of a future phase of reopening.
- **At Homes** – Groups are permitted to meet at homes, but we ask that you follow these guidelines for the safety of you and your guests.
 - **Limit Group Size** - 25 or fewer
 - **Use Social Distancing** - 6 feet between people
 - **Wear Masks** - We are asking group members to wear masks, especially in the time people are arriving and socializing. Once group members are safely distanced, masks may be removed at the discretion of the leader and participants.
 - **No Contact** - Go “touchless” for a while in the group, even though group members will be desperate to give and receive hugs and handshakes.
 - **Location** - Choose a meeting place where you can safely distance. Meeting outside is encouraged when possible. It’s a great time of year to enjoy the fresh air and weather.
 - **Observe these medical restrictions:**
 - **Illness** – Group members should stay home if they or anyone in their household is sick. Ask people if they have met with someone who has Covid-19, or if they have a cough or a fever. If so, these people should stay home. CDC suggests 14 days of quarantine.
 - **Food** - We are big proponents of food at small group gatherings, but during this challenging season, we are recommending that groups not eat together. If you do choose to eat, encourage members to bring their own beverage and snack.
 - **Cleaning** - The group host should be prepared to clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched both before and after group (door handles, chairs, restrooms, etc.).
 - **The Virtual Option** - Not everyone will feel comfortable attending in person at first. Consider setting up a computer in your meeting area so some group members can join in via video conference.
 - **Childcare** - Due to the challenge of having young children practice distancing, we are asking groups to not bring children to meetings at this time.
 - **Vulnerable Individuals** - Those who are 65+ or who have serious underlying health conditions are strongly encouraged to join an online small group rather than an in-person one. Groups comprised largely of high-risk individuals are encouraged to continue meeting virtually.

While NC4 leaders can offer some overall guidelines for groups, it is the decision of each group how they will meet the intentions of the guidelines. Our concern remains both the spiritual and the physical health of our group members.

We recognize that some of you might be nervous about meeting at all. That is perfectly acceptable - you don't have to. It's your choice! On the other hand, others may feel like any sort of meeting restrictions are unnecessary. We are recommending these guidelines because we want to preserve our witness for Jesus to our communities by honoring civil authorities, and because we love one another and don't want to be responsible for a virus outbreak that could affect the lives of many.