

**NC4 Connect Groups, Bible Studies & Classes**  
**Phase 2 Reopening**  
**July 23, 2020**

Although Phase 2 Reopening Guidelines allow for some on-campus group meetings, we still strongly encourage meeting outdoors at homes as long as the weather permits. Both campuses are now open for Connect Groups, but at restricted capacity. Please contact Pastor Bob Rentler to discuss availability and requirements.

- If your entire group is willing to meet together, we will make every effort to provide an appropriately sized and spaced room. Group size should be kept to 25 or fewer.
- If some of your members do not feel comfortable attending in the building, consider setting up a computer in your meeting area so some group members can join in via video or teleconference.

At Homes - Groups are permitted to meet at homes, but we suggest 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. Please be sensitive to others' concerns.
- No Contact - Go "touchless" 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.
- Illness - Group members should stay home if they or anyone in their household is sick. Ask people if they have met with someone who currently 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 share food. 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. If children attend, it is strongly recommended that they only be with others with whom they already regularly interact.
- 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 is 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.*

## **Guidance for Outdoor Ministry Events**

Outdoor ministry events such as picnics and other primarily social gatherings, that are not worship services, should follow the following guidelines which are in compliance with the State of PA:

- Limit Group Size - 250 or fewer
- Use Social Distancing - 6 feet between people
- Wear Masks - Please be sensitive to others.
- No Contact - Go “touchless” in the group, avoid hugs and handshakes.
- Location - Choose a meeting place where you can safely distance.
- Illness - Anyone should stay home if they or anyone in their household is sick. Ask people if they have met with someone who currently 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 – Please do not share food. If you do choose to eat, encourage members to bring their own beverage and snack or have prepackaged single serving options.
- 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.).
- Childcare - Due to the challenge of having young children practice distancing, we are asking groups to not bring children to meetings at this time. If children attend, it is strongly recommended that they only be with others with whom they already regularly interact.
- Vulnerable Individuals - Those who are 65+ or who have serious underlying health conditions are strongly encouraged to avoid attending.