



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

South Caribbean Conference

March 10, 2022

All Ministerial Workers
First Elders
Members SDA Churches

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Dear Brethren:

Christian Greetings!

God continues to be an awesome God to us and for this we give Him glory, honour and praise! As a church we welcomed the announcement from the Prime Minister, Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley, informing the nation of the re-opening of churches at full capacity, with no time limit, effective March 7, 2022.

For those who are able to return, we welcome you back to face to face church services, however, we urge you to be very mindful of and to maintain the protocols outlined by the Conference. We therefore, implore our leaders to give significant attention to the attached guidelines which were voted by the Conference Executive Committee on March 10, 2022. These guidelines, we are assured will aid us in keeping persons in attendance safe from contracting the Covid-19 virus.

We also encourage our leaders to maintain the virtual platform in spite of the full re-opening of churches. This has and continues to be a very relevant means of communicating the gospel and enriching the lives of our members and their friends.

Furthermore, while there are no time limitations for our services, we have seen the benefits of shortened church services and it is welcomed by the membership. We wish then, to suggest to our leaders that all our services (Sabbath, Funerals, Weddings etc.) remain within a reasonable time frame.

Once again, we join our voices in a song of praise for the joy to worship face to face. *'Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.'*
Psalm 145:3.

Yours in the Master's Service

LESLIE MOSES
President

South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Updated Guidelines

March 10, 2022

Transitioning from Pandemic to Endemic

Due to the fact that our churches and premises have returned to 100 percent (100%) capacity and also unlimited time for church services, the South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is advising **CHURCH LEADERS** to adhere to the following:-

1) INSPECTION

The Church Safety Committee/Team be engaged in a thorough inspection of the Church Premises and contents - Equipment (including electrical and plumbing), Furniture, Water Tanks, Storage Spaces, etc.

Check for cracks, defects and other inconsistencies which must be attended to in the light of these new realities.

2) SANITIZATION

The entire church premises and contents should be properly sanitized. **This must also be done before and after each service.**

All touch sensitive areas including hand rails, doorknobs/handles, chairs/pews, kneeling benches, restrooms, light switches, etc. must be included.

- ***Podium and microphones***

Podium and microphones must be sanitized after being used by **each** participant. In sanitizing please do not spray directly onto the surface of the items, but into the fabric used. (***Spray into the fabric, then wipe the surface***)

- ***Audio Visual Rooms and Vestry***

These areas are to be sanitized once in use

- ***Air Condition Units***

Units must also be cleaned and serviced according to schedule

3) PERSONAL HYGIENE

- Continue to wash hands and take temperatures of all persons entering the compound.
- If a person's temperature is elevated (above 37.5⁰) kindly ask that person to seek medical assistance if a repeated attempt gives the same reading.

Normal Body Temperature - 98.6⁰F or 36.5⁰C to 37.4⁰ C

Elevated Body Temperature - 100.4⁰F or 38⁰ C

- Persons with flu like symptoms should not attend church services.

Churches are to continue to provide:-

- Wash Sinks with running water and foot or hand-levered taps
- Liquid Soap
- Paper Towels
- Covered Bin with Step-on Lid
- Temperature Machines
- Hand Sanitizing Stations (Indoor and Outdoor)
- Masks should be provided for those who do not have
- Notebook to record elevated temperatures

4) WEARING OF FACE MASK

The Face Mask must be worn correctly - covering mouth and nose. Face Shields can be worn but along with a Face Mask.

The person speaking at the podium can remove his/her mask while maintaining a distance of twelve (12) feet from the first pew.

If the space does not allow the 12 feet distance then the mask must be kept on.

5) GREETINGS

We maintain **NO** hand shaking or hugging for the time being

6) SIGNAGE

You are free to remove your seat separation markings, however the floor directional signs should remain to direct entrances and exits.

7) DURATION OF SERVICE

Each church should determine the length of service with the consideration for those who are challenged.

8) CHURCH SERVICES

Persons with flu-like symptoms should not attend church services

In-person

- All In-person Church services are to be resumed with the option to continue Online Services. These include: Sabbath Services for all ages, Night Services, Church Boards and other church related committees, Counselling Services and other meetings.

Communion service

- We resume the Foot Washing Ceremony with participants wearing Face Masks.

a. Church Participants

All emblems are to be pre-packaged to avoid cross-contamination.

Please ensure that there is a facility/system in place to collect the disposable receptacles.

b. Shut-Ins

The pre-packaged emblems are to be used. The temperature of both the recipient and those officiating must be determined before entering the home

Baby dedication

Please ensure hands are sanitized before holding the baby

Baptism

This service continues as at present using Face Masks

Exorcism

Prayer for deliverance from demon possession (exorcisms) continues without physical touch

Anointing

Ensure hands are sanitized before performing this service. Face Masks must also be worn

Outreach

Outreach services (*Open Aairs*) to be conducted according to the public gatherings of no more than 25 persons. Masks must be worn

Marching Bands

Marching Bands are to resume operations for practise and appointments.

9) SOCIAL/FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Potluck at church - take away only

According to Ministry of Health regulation February 2022:-

- In public spaces - 25 persons only
- Sporting events – for safe zones only
- Indoor facility - 25 % of the capacity of the facility
- Outdoor facility - 50% of the capacity of the facility
- **Persons with flu like symptoms should not attend fellowship activities**

10) BRIEFINGS

**The above must be communicated to the membership at every service
The procedure to exit the building must be included in these briefings**

**We await further guidelines from the Ministry of Health.
Churches will be updated accordingly.**