

Covid Guidelines for Soma Eastside

We are issuing these guidelines for the sake of clarity so you know what to expect at our gatherings (Sunday Service) and at smaller meetings.

Guiding Principles:

- **The Great Commandment**- Our highest calling is to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. We desire to create an environment where every person is free to express their love for God while also demonstrating love and care for our neighbors. (Matthew 22:36-40)
- **Priority of Worship** - Believers are explicitly instructed not to forsake gathering with other believers for the purpose of encouraging and spurring one another on towards love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:25-27)
- **Submitting to the Lordship of Christ** - God's Word offers a "Chain of Command." "*We must obey God rather than humans!*" Acts 5:29 Scripture teaches that believers should follow the laws of the presiding government unless the laws violate their understanding of God's commands. Our first priority is to God's Word and then the Government is second in the chain of command because, "For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God." Romans 13:1
- **The Law of Love** - Scripture insists we practice the law of love towards each other. We are commanded to lay aside our rights for the sake of our brethren. "*Although I'm free from all people, I make myself a slave to all people, to recruit more of them.*" 1 Corinthians 9:19
- **A Call to Heal** - "Soma Eastside must be a place of spiritual, emotional, and physical healing. Scripture instructs, "If any of you are sick, they should call for the elders of the church, and the elders should pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)
- **Gospel Witness** - We are called to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel, as one church, with one Spirit and one purpose, striving for the faith for the glory of God and the good of the Eastside. (Philippians 1:27)
- **Moving The Mission Forward** - Soma Eastside is committed to continue gathering, caring for our brothers and sisters and making disciples as we have been directed by our Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:16-20)

Practical Care For Our Gatherings

- Members and guests are asked to *not attend the services in person if they have been exposed to the virus or are exhibiting any symptoms of illness.*
- Soma will ensure *proper ventilation* in our worship space according to the most recent guidelines.

- All members and guests will **be required to enter wearing a mask**. Upon reaching their seat, **removing your mask will be optional**.
- For the time being, Soma Eastside will **provide two seating sections** in our worship space – **one section will be masks mandatory; the other will be masks optional**. Members and guests will be free to sit in the section which best fits their needs and convictions. When talking with others, **please agree to put your mask on if they ask**.

In MC Gatherings

- Each MC/Bible Study/Prayer meeting will discuss what is best for their group. SEC will encourage dialogue and grace.