



TEXICO CONFERENCE

Texico Conference COVID-19 Update October 16, 2020

Texico members have experienced this pandemic in every aspect of our lives: individually, in our families, in loss or reduction of employment, in very significant economic hardship and serious restrictions to our worship services and fellowship. We are saddened to share that we have recently lost three of our church members to the effects of this horrible enemy. And yet, our faith remains completely in the Lord that He will provide strength and protection and resources to His people.

It is understandable that we are all growing weary of the on-going health orders, and the implementation questions that they raise. However, it seems important for members of God's family in New Mexico and West Texas to do whatever we can to minimize the necessity for more restrictive measures to be taken by the governors. Please note the current guidance from our governors and public health leaders related to our worship services as it is presented below.

Texas

The latest public health orders declare that churches and houses of worship may function without any limitation to occupancy.

- Face coverings **are not required** during worship services however they are **strongly encouraged**.
- Social distancing of 6 feet is still the recommendation which includes refraining from hugs and handshakes.
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer are strongly encouraged.

New Mexico

Yesterday the governor made several changes in the state health directives. While the number who may participate in 'mass gatherings' was reduced to 5 or fewer people, there is a separate classification that relates to 'houses of worship'. That guidance authorizes 'houses of worship' to function at 40% of the official capacity of the facility, and was not changed.

- Face coverings **are required** to be worn during worship services and church activities.
- Social distancing of 6 feet is still recommended which includes refraining from handshakes and hugs.
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer are strongly encouraged.

Conclusion

These recommendations/requirements are not new and yet, some of our members still resist them. **While there may be disagreement as to the effectiveness of these measures, we strongly encourage that they be taken seriously. We also strongly encourage anyone with a compromised immune system, or any other vulnerability, to refrain from participation in church activities.** We are praying for each of you and we thank you for your prayers for each other, and for all of us as well. May God continue to bless us all as we remain faithful to Him.

Texico Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administration
Corrales, New Mexico
October 16, 2020
