

Dear Church Family,

Greetings to all of you. I am writing to you to inform you of the decision that the Markham Woods Church Board made last night. The sub-committee tasked with making recommendations to the board in regard to dealing with COVID-19 has been monitoring the situation. Based on the sub-committee's recommendation, the board last night voted the following:

Markham Woods Church will return to a required use of face masks and social distancing as of this Sabbath, August 7, 2021. Participants in all activities of the church are expected to wear face masks and observe social distancing of six feet between family groups. This required use will continue until revoked by either the MWC Board or an empowered sub-group of the Board.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to this decision. Our aim is to make Markham Woods a safe place for all who attend. This is a temporary measure until the health crisis subsides in the community. We hope that this will be measured in weeks, not months.

Please pay attention to the website, bulletin and other text/email announcements because this will affect our programming of church events for at least the next month. Please contact one of us on staff if you have any questions about how the ministry you are interested in is affected.

This has ceased to be a theoretical issue for most of our church members since many in our midst have been affected by COVID-19. Please remember in your prayers those individuals and groups in our congregation currently affected.

I have been in contact with many healthcare providers in our congregation in the last few weeks and most have stated that this is the worst that it has been in the hospital system since the pandemic started. They have never had so many patients in the system with COVID and the hospitals, in many cases, are having difficulties finding enough staff and space to deal with this surge in cases. We need to pray for their strength and wisdom in dealing with this virus.

It is times like these that we, as a spiritual family, need to draw close to the Lord and lift each other up. The devil knows his time is short and is working overtime – but we know there is light at the end of the tunnel – Jesus is coming soon!

May God continue to bless all of you,
Doug