



Our conduct as ESSA congregations in Corona times

1. We recognize that covid-19 is a serious disease, from which it is necessary to protect oneself, and in case of illness it is advisable to consult a doctor at an early stage. (Luke 5:31)
2. We recognize that government is instituted by God to promote good and resist evil (Rom.13:3-4). However, we are convinced that each person is responsible for his or her own health, safety, and welfare. (1 Cor 6:19-20)
3. We take seriously Jesus' word that the soul is more important than the body and eternal life more than the earthly lifetime. (Mark 8:36; Mt 10:28)
4. We accept that every person must answer to his or her conscience not only before earthly authorities, but above all before God. (Acts 24:16; 1 Thess 4:1; Rom 14:12)
5. We respect the decision of church members who choose to be vaccinated, but also of all who choose not to be vaccinated. (Rom 14:12)
6. We meet one another in the love of Christ. Therefore, we avoid anything that causes distrust, discord, and division (Rom.14:19; Gal.5:19-21). This means that we respect personal convictions and decisions and do not condemn one another. (1 Cor.4:5)
7. We seek, where desired and possible, to speak with one another, to listen to one another, and to seek to understand one another, always with the attitude, "In humility, each esteeming the other better than himself." (Phil 2:3)
8. Where conversation is not possible or desired, we bear with one another in love according to the word: "Bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph 4:2-3)
9. At our gatherings, we make no distinction between the vaccinated and the non-vaccinated. Everyone is welcome and everyone is treated with the same respect and love. (Col 3:11)
10. We respect everyone who is abstaining from the events temporarily out of consideration for his or her health. However, no one can permanently neglect the fellowship of believers. (Heb 10:24-25)
11. When a church member is publicly attacked or humiliated for their beliefs, we stand up for each other and protect them. (1 Cor 12:26; 2 Cor 11:29).
12. We resist all fear-mongering in firm trust in Christ who has overcome the world. In Him we are safe, even in sickness and death. (John 16:33; Rom 8:38-39)