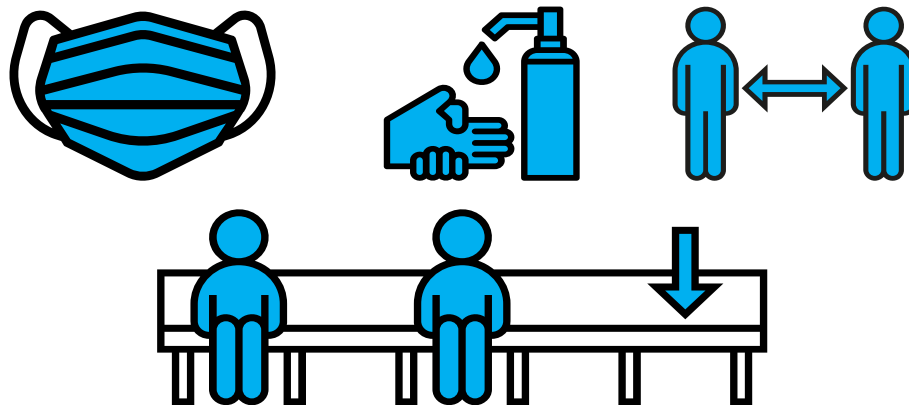


Our Worship Will Remain Digital Until Further Notice

Media reports that religious worship is now permitted in Germany are at best oversimplified, if not actually misleading, for they omit to mention the **severe conditions that apply**:

compulsory registration of all worshippers (name, address, phone number), *controlled arrival and departure* of worshippers (maintaining distance at the door), *one-way system* operative in church, obligatory *hand disinfection*, worshippers *seated at least 1.5 m apart* (on marked seating only), *masks* must be worn, *no singing* is permitted, *no Bibles* for church use to be distributed, *no communion* to be celebrated, *no physical contact* (no shaking hands / no sharing peace), etc.



In combination, these restrictions would effectively destroy any worshipful atmosphere, and so our congregation is following the recommendation of the Bochum *Kirchenkreis* to wait until after Pentecost (more probably until after the summer holidays) before contemplating resuming 'normal' worship in church. The ultimate decision on this lies with the *Presbyterium* of our host Pauluskirche, with whom the Church Council is in dialogue on this question.

We will therefore be continuing to develop our digital worship alternatives. Please share with us any creative suggestions you may have on how we might improve on this: [ecc-bochum\(at\)gmx.de](mailto:ecc-bochum(at)gmx.de)