

PRESS RELEASE

Since the Crossing LIFE Church reopened on April 5th after the statewide shutdown, it has been implementing the COVID-19 Governor's Reopening Guidance for houses of worship.

<https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/inline-documents/2020-05/guidance-worship.pdf>. There is no knowledge of any positive COVID cases connected with Crossing LIFE church until July 22nd.

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7th, after almost three weeks from confirmation of the first positive COVID test result, Shawn Foster, the senior pastor at Crossing Life Church, was notified by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS") and informed that DHHS had linked 16 positive cases to the Crossing LIFE Church family. In partnership with DHHS, the Crossing LIFE Church agreed to suspend all church services and public events for two weeks, and host a testing event on Monday, August 10th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to be held on church property. Those church members who have concerns about potential exposure to the virus and who have not yet been tested have been encouraged to participate. Crossing Life Church agreed to these preventative steps to ensure that all reasonable precautions are put in place to keep people safe.

NH DHHS further informed the church that it would be issuing a press release. Notwithstanding the DHHS press release, it is the Crossing LIFE Church's desire to provide the actual context behind the positive test result numbers cited in the DHHS press release and to further provide church members, their friends and family, and the residents of Windham and the surrounding communities with vital information. It is very difficult to determine the source of this virus and an individual carries on many activities and interacts with many people in the course of business each week. The members of the Crossing LIFE Church are no different. As far as the staff, the church does not maintain a central office where the staff gather, and staff typically do not have close daily contact. Most church members have been very diligent in following social distancing and quarantining guidelines.

The first known case of Coronavirus that was connected to the Crossing LIFE Church involved a member of a Windham household in which 3 other positive tests followed. While this specific individual exhibited no symptoms, they tested out of an abundance of caution because a close family friend was getting ready to visit their residence. To the best of our information, this household reflects the only cases in Windham that are linked in any way to Crossing LIFE Church. While waiting for test results, this individual observed quarantine guidelines and only exhibited mild symptoms (headache).

Shortly after exhibiting mild symptoms, this individual received a positive test result and the spouse who was experiencing symptoms, received a negative test result. This household determined to continue to quarantine together regardless of the conflicting test results. To date, all members of this household have recovered from COVID-19 and finished their prescribed quarantine by their PCP and in full compliance with CDC guidelines: "at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and** at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication." <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html> This detailed narrative is shared to demonstrate the care and concern that members of this Church have taken to contain the spread of this virus.

Most cases that were connected to Crossing LIFE Church were clustered in a few households. Most of these cases started quarantine before any symptoms because they were notified by people with symptoms of a possible exposure. This kind of "close contact" is defined by the CDC as follows:

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Two of the most recent positive tests from a brother and sister were received on August 1st. However, the tests were actually taken on July 21st and 24th, respectively, and the siblings, who were in the end stages of quarantine, exhibited only mild symptoms.

Out of an abundance of caution, most of the members of the Crossing LIFE Church have been in self-imposed quarantine, which includes not coming to church events for the past three weeks. Most members have not attended a Sunday service. Many church members also went for early testing and have already received a negative test result. The Crossing LIFE Church will continue to work with NH DHHS to protect its members and the community.

Crossing LIFE Church has been in constant communication with its members on COVID-19, Governor's Reopening Guidance and CDC Guidance for houses of worship.