



Appendix B: Setting Respectful and Kind Social Boundaries

If a person...

- Refuses to wear a mask
- Refuses to maintain physical distancing
- Refuses to wash their hands (for servers)
- Insists on sitting in a particular seat/pew
- Insists on shaking hands
- Says, “You’re just overreacting...” Or, “This is just political nonsense...”
- Is obviously sick / symptomatic

Use humor...

- “Washy, Washy!” or, “Safety first!” (This will work well for folks who have been on a cruise.)
- “It looks like your 6’ and my 6’ are different. I’m going to take a step back,” said with a playful tone.
- “No thank you! I am not shaking hands these days...How about an elbow bump instead?” Or, “...here (putting one’s hands in front of one’s chest): ‘The Peace of Christ be with you.’”

Be direct and ask for a specific action...

- “Please wash your hands. Doctors tells us this is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of the infection. If you prefer not to wash your hands or wear gloves, I’ll have to ask you not to serve coffee until a vaccine is found.”
- “Sir/Madam, it appears you don’t feel well. For the health of others, we need you to return home until you feel better.”

Point to Session’s request...

- “Session is asking us not to shake hands, and we need you to comply also. If you just can’t help yourself, it would be best that you stay at home for now.”
- “Session has made wearing a mask a requirement. If you want to attend the service/meeting/event, please wear a mask or you will be asked to leave. If you don’t have a mask, here is one you can use and take with you.”
- “Session asks everyone to respect the rules for physical distancing. Even if you’re not worried, Session is asking everyone to comply. If you choose not to comply, we will ask you to leave.”

Acknowledge the awkwardness without apologizing...

- “I know you have always sat here. I get it. However, Session is asking everyone to maintain physical distance from one another and this seat/pew is roped off. Would you like me to help you find another seat or will you find it yourself?”
- “Many folks feel as you do. However, we prefer to be safe rather than sorry and so are asking you to observe our new group norms. Thank you for going along, even if you disagree with Session’s decision.”