

# Church Opening and Closing Guidelines during COVID-19 pandemic



	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
Worship Services	Online	Online/In Person	In Person/Online
Session	Online	Online/In Person	In Person
Sunday School	Online	Online/In Person	In Person
Children's Ministry / Nursery	Online	Suspended	In Person
Building/CommGrps	CLOSED	Limited	Open w/permission
Other activities	Suspended	Suspended	Allowed
Staff	Remote	Onsite	Onsite
Vulnerable	Online	Online	In Person/Online

## Decision Guide

The decision to move from phase to phase will be made based upon decreasing or zero new cases of Covid-19 over at least three consecutive weeks within your region and state.

## STAY HOME IF:

- You have a temperature of 100.4 or higher.
- You have other symptoms of illness. (CDC Guidelines)
  - Cough
  - Chills
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Muscle pain
  - Fever
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
- You have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms. If there is *any* chance you might be a risk to others, please stay home.
- You are in a Vulnerable group. (CDC Guidelines)
  - Over the age of 60
  - Compromised immune systems or comorbid condition (i.e. high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, asthma, chemotherapy)

## WHEN COMING TO CHURCH:

- Take your temperature before coming to church to ensure it is below 100
- Wear a mask covering your nose and mouth.
- Use the hand sanitizer in the dispensers on the way in and out of church.
- Practice good social distancing by staying at least 6 feet apart.
- Sit only with your cohabitating family/friends in marked pews.
- WAVE. Do NOT shake hands or hug.
- Use a tissue if you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- All surfaces will be sanitized before and after worship.

## PHASE 2 GUIDELINES

### IN-PERSON WORSHIP

- Please use MARKED entrance and exit doors and hallways.
- Masks covering nose and mouth **must** be worn.
- Hands will be sanitized as you enter the sanctuary.
- Seating will be available where indicated in marked pews.
- Sit **ONLY** with cohabiting family/friends.
- Maintain 6 feet between yourself and others. **NO** handshaking or hugs.
- Ushers will seat and dismiss people row by row.
- The church doors will remain open and no air conditioning/ceiling fans will be used.
- No nursery.
- Offering plates will be available at all sanctuary exits.
- The singing of hymns is postponed until further notice. However, music will continue to be a significant part of the service. Hymnals and bibles will be removed. Please bring your own Bible if you wish.
- The worship bulletin will be available online to print at home and bring. Order of worship will be projected or bulletins available for you to pick up.
- **ONLY** the sanctuary and marked bathrooms will be used. One person at a time in the bathrooms always.
- **ALL** other areas and entrances are closed. Please observe posted signs.

## PHASE 3 GUIDELINES

- Masks covering nose and mouth must be worn.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.
- Maintain 6 feet between yourself and others.
- **NO** handshakes or hugs.
- Offering plates will be available at all sanctuary exits.
- All words for hymns and readings will be printed or projected.
- Please observe signs for areas in the building that can be entered.

## RE-CLOSING GUIDELINES

Session may elect to re-close the church and worship under any of the following reports or conditions. Congregation members will be immediately notified.

- Anyone who has active COVID and has been in the church building / in contact with church staff and/or someone in the congregation within the previous week
- Anyone who has symptoms of COVID (such as fever, chills, cough, loss of taste/smell, etc.) and has been in the church building / in contact with church staff and/or someone in the congregation within the previous week
- Anyone who has been told they've come into contact with someone positively diagnosed and has been in the church building / in contact with church staff and/or someone in the congregation within the previous week
- A significant localized outbreak to the church or staff (or key volunteers) home locations
- Increase in county reported cases of COVID more than 10% of the state report for more than three consecutive days
- Governor begins to re-order public closures (restaurants, bars, gyms, etc.) of either the county, region or state

### **NOTE:**

**If anyone who attends worship tests positive or develops symptoms, please call the church office without delay.**

**The church will be closed immediately and everyone who may have had contact or been exposed will be notified.**

**The Health Department will also be notified with your contact information.**