**Church Opening and Closing Guidelines during COVID-19 pandemic**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **PHASE 1** |  **PHASE 2**  | **PHASE 3** |
| COVID Status\* | County is Red or Orange | County is low orange or yellow | County is green |
| 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 |

**\* using state guidelines or COVIDACTNOW.ORG**

**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
	+ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
	+ Fever
	+ Chills
	+ Muscle pain
	+ 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:**

* 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/celling 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**

**8:45 and 10:45 LIVE Service**

* Sit with cohabiting family/friends.
* Masks covering nose and mouth must be worn until further notice.
* 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**

* Sit with cohabiting family/friends.

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, child, 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.**