

Coming Back Together: Health Plan for Safety

Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. Jeremiah 31:2-4

Out of care and concern for the neighbor and those most vulnerable among us, Hutto Lutheran commits to follow the phases outlined below to return to in-person gatherings.

This is a plan using the most current conditions and information. It will remain as such and leadership will amend this plan as needed.

In all phases:

- Continue to strongly discourage vulnerable individuals or individuals who have traveled from attending any in-person gathering.
- Continue to strongly encourage 'stay home if sick'.
- Continue to promote healthy hygiene practices.

Phase 1 - What we are currently (June 2020) doing.

- Stay home. Stay safe.

Phase 2 begins when Williamson & Travis County COVID-19 daily reported positive cases* indicate 14 days of declining cases-(not a leveling). If resurgence occurs, the count of days starts over.

- Worship continues to happen in an online only format.
- Ministry team meetings and bible study groups may resume in-person gathering following strict physical distancing protocols. No hugs or handshakes. Online option will be provided for those who choose not to gather in-person to attend meeting. Gathering may not be more than 10 individuals.
- Weddings and funerals with strict physical distancing protocols. No more than 10 in attendance and all must wear a face covering. Outdoor spaces only. The church council, working with Pastor Wegner will be responsible for complying with the State of Texas Minimum Standards of Health for Church Worship Attendees.
- No visits to hospitals or senior care facilities.
- No youth activities.
- Fellowship activities are still suspended.
- No use of the facilities for wedding receptions, memorial luncheons, family reunions or other rentals.
- Encourage church staff to work from home as much as possible.
- Stay in phone/online contact with members of your congregation and community.

Coming Back Together: Health Plan for Safety

Phase 3 begins when Williamson & Travis County COVID-19 daily reported positive cases* indicate 28 days of declining cases (not a leveling). If resurgence occurs, the count of days starts over.

- Worship resumes in-person with strict protocols and revised practices. The church council, working with Pastor Wegner will be responsible for complying with the State of Texas Minimum Standards of Health for Churches and Places of Worship and Church Worship Attendees. Current copy of the ~~(requirements)~~^[CB1] can be found at <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas> i.e. Sharing of the peace, communion, wearing face coverings, alternative worship spaces.
- On-line, live streaming worship still offered.
- Ministry team meetings and bible study groups may resume in-person gathering following moderate physical distancing protocols. Online option will be provided for those who choose not to gather in-person to attend meeting.
- Weddings and funerals with moderate physical distancing protocols. The church council, working with Pastor Wegner will be responsible for complying with the State of Texas Minimum Standards of Health for Churches and Places of Worship and Church Worship Attendees. Current copy of the ~~(requirements)~~^[CB2] can be found at <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>
- Wedding receptions, memorial meals, family reunions and other use of the facilities where food is served must comply with the State of Texas Minimum Standards of Health for Restaurants. Current copy of these standards can be found at <https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Restaurants.pdf>.
- No visits to hospitals or senior care facilities.
- Youth activities may resume taking into account good hygiene and alternative practices.
- Fellowship activities may resume with moderate physical distancing protocols.
- Encourage church staff to work from home as much as possible.
- Stay in phone/online contact with members of your congregation and community.

Phase 4 begins when Williamson & Travis County COVID-19 daily reported positive cases* indicate ~~a downward trajectory of positive cases~~ 42 days of declining cases (not a leveling). If resurgence occurs, the count of days starts over.

- Worship resumes in-person with moderate protocols and revised practices. The church council, working with Pastor Wegner will be responsible for complying with the State of Texas Minimum Standards of Health for Churches and Places of Worship and Church Worship Attendees. Current copy of the ~~(requirements)~~^[CB3] can be found at <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas> i.e. Sharing of the peace, communion, wearing face coverings, alternative worship spaces.
- On-line, live streaming worship still offered.

Coming Back Together: Health Plan for Safety

- Ministry team meetings and bible study groups may resume in-person gathering following moderate physical distancing protocols. Online option will be provided for those who choose not to gather in-person to attend meeting.
- Weddings and funerals with moderate physical distancing protocols. The church council, working with Pastor Wegner will be responsible for complying with the State of Texas Minimum Standards of Health for Churches and Places of Worship and Church Worship Attendees. Current copy of the **requirements**^[CB4] can be found at <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>
- Wedding receptions, memorial meals, family reunions and other use of the facilities where food is served must comply with the State of Texas Minimum Standards of Health for Restaurants. Current copy of these standards can be found at <https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Restaurants.pdf>.
- Visits to hospitals visits or senior care facilities may resume with extreme care and strict following of guidelines set by those establishments. Homebound communion may resume.
- Youth activities may resume.
- Fellowship activities may resume with moderate physical distancing protocols.
- Church staff may resume typical work without restriction.
- Stay in phone/online contact with members of your congregation and community.

* Data used to assess periods of decline will be from The Texas Department of State Health Services. Their by county graph of daily new cases includes a 7-day average trend line used to determine decline or increase.

<https://tabexternal.dshs.texas.gov/t/THD/views/COVIDExternalQC/COVIDTrends?%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y>

Strict physical distancing:

- Everyone must wear a face covering.
- 6 foot radius of distance must be adhered to.
- No more than 10 people gathered, aside from worship.
- No hugs or handshakes.

Moderate physical distancing:

- Face coverings optional, but encouraged.
- 6 foot radius of distance is encouraged.
- No more than 20 gathered, aside from worship.
- Hugs and handshakes are discouraged.