



Approved: June 9, 2020

COVID-19 Phase II Re-gathering Protocol for St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Brenham Texas

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
2310 Airline Drive, Brenham Texas 77833
Washington County
West Region: Central Convocation
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Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. *Romans 14:13*

It is with this spirit we intend to encourage the Fellowship of St. Peter's to gather in healthy and safe practices as to the best of our abilities for the building up of one another in the Spirit of Christ Jesus.

Desired return: May 30, 2020 or thereafter subject to episcopal approval.

Notes: We are currently broadcasting from our parish hall because **our nave is under mold remediation and reconstruction.** We expect the work will be completed in June. Our plans are covering two different spaces with similar and different requirements.

For continued access for homebound parishioners:

We intend to continue live streaming on Facebook and YouTube. We'd like to add additional cameras to enhance the broadcast. We have been writing DVDs for parishioners with limited internet access in rural areas. We are working on upgrading our internet service provider from DSL coverage to Fiber. We expect that to take place within 1-2 months.

For parishioners at higher risks for hospitalizing due to this virus:

We will clearly encourage our vulnerable folks to stay at home, but equally leave it to their discretion to participate. We intend to normalize wearing masks for everyone. And encourage youth and older children to do the same. For younger children we will encourage parents to take turns staying home with them and watching online.

Leading on healthy practices:

The rector intends to wear a mask while functioning at the church campus except when in office or when he is the only person present. Celebrants will use hand sanitizer prior to consecration of the elements.



Shared use of Space

We allow several support groups including Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, NAMI, exercise, and yoga classes to meet in our space and will uphold the social distancing criteria of limited numbers (under ten persons), use of masks, and physical distancing. In addition these groups have been required to provide sanitization sprays for surface when they conclude their meetings. We are seeing conflicting information on the viability of the virus on surfaces. More information is required.

We do not intend to rent our space to other outside organizations until Phase III.



Weekly Schedule

Sunday

Hand Sanitizer at the door or in pews for use entering and leaving the facility.

8am Worship Service (Provide disinfectant wipes to parishioners and request them to wipe down the areas which they occupied.)

9:15 am Sunday school (Provide cleaning supplies to be used by teachers to wipe down services at the end of each session. This will not begin until Phase III. Small classrooms will not be used in phase 2. Only adult education programs will occur in larger spaced rooms such as library or education hall to permit participants to social distance.

10:30am Worship Service (Provide disinfectant wipes to parishioners and request them to wipe down the areas which they occupied.)

Everyone in attendance will be required to wear a facemask. Both cloth and single use paper masks will be available for anyone that shows up without a mask.

Small bottles of hand sanitizer will be available for use in all rows or pews.

We will not reinstitute coffee hour at this time. Fellowship may take place outside on the lawn away from the front doors in small groups wearing masks and social distancing for those who wish to mingle.

When worship returns to the church nave we will allow organization meetings (such as Daughters of the King, Outreach Committee, but these meetings will take place in the parish hall with parishioners spread out based on social distancing criteria. Customary shared meals will not be permitted during the first phases of this regathering. People may bring their own sack lunches.

Monday

9:30am Exercise Class-participants will be required to wear mask, social distance and wipe down any surfaces that were used in their gathering.

12:30pm Education for Ministry will meet via Zoom when it restarts in September.

6:30 AA meeting we have removed community tables from their space to reduce surfaces. AA will be required to provide masks for their attendants, practice social distancing, and wipe down surfaces. Community coffee will be prohibited during this phase.

Tuesday

12pm AA meeting (same)

6pm Al-Anon (same)

7pm Tuesday night book club will not meet until phase 3

6pm – Monthly Vestry meetings – will take place in person using required social distancing guidelines.



Wednesday

9:30am Exercise class (same)

12pm Wednesday service (same as Sunday)

5:30 Prayer Team meetings will meet over (Zoom) beginning in September and can meet in person in phase 3

6:30 AA Meeting (same)

Thursday

6:30pm NAMI-Mental illness support group will be required to provide masks for their attendants, practice social distancing, and wipe down surfaces.

Friday

7am Men's Fellowship-will not meet in this phase

9:30am Exercise Class (same)

12pm Book Group-will not meet until phase 3.

Saturday

8pm AA meeting (same)



Attendees/Capacity

Pre-shut down ASA 114

We plan to worship in the parish hall until our nave remediation work is complete.

Parish hall occupancy 240 –

Nave occupancy 400+

Potential Worshipers

120+ divided over 3 worship services not to exceed 50 congregants per service during phase 2

Spots reserved for guest

5 per service

Pre-shutdown Music and Choir participants.

20

Seating capacity music and choir

24

Presumptive Music Choir participants Phase 2

(4) Four choral interns spaced 15 feet from others.

Altar Seating Capacity

6

Presumptive number of clergy and servers in the altar area

3-4

How will you collect RSVPs for worship?

We will use a reservation app to invite parishioners to RSVP for the number of places available in each service. Once those spots are taken then they will have to sign up for another service. We will have the ushers monitor the door to ensure that folks who aren't on the list won't inadvertently take a listed person's place.

We intend to use these lists to help tracing if someone should test positive for the virus.

Who will greet arriving worshippers and direct them to seating, clarify distancing requirement, and "close the service to additional worshippers if/when capacity is reached.

Greeters and Ushers will be responsible for orienting worshipers as they enter the worship space. We anticipate using our parish hall as spill over for worship by broadcasting services into that space. All greeters and ushers will be required to attend a mandatory training prior to re-opening.

How will pews be marked to encourage distancing?

Pews will be roped off and signage with directions stating "unavailable."

How will you discourage clustering following services?



At the conclusion of worship, we will dismiss worshippers by rows, back to front. We will encourage parishioners to maintain distancing as they leave the building. And remind them to limit their contact with one another.



Liturgical Notes: Eucharist and Distribution of Communion

We will omit processions other than the procession of the cross at the beginning and end of the service. All altar ministers and cantors will be seated prior to worship.

There will be no gospel procession.

How will communion be distributed?

The chalice will be reserved for the celebrant. Bread will be distributed from the foot of the chancel in a standing posture. Ushers will direct individuals or family groups to come up rather than a line forming. Alternatively, the priest and deacon will move through vacant rows of the seated participants and distribute the bread to each individual.) This would reduce the potential of transmitting the virus in lingering aerosol clouds as people move through them. Masks will be required through approach and will be adjusted solely for the purpose of receiving the bread.

By whom?

Only the clergy will distribute the bread. A limited number of LEMs will function in other liturgical ways.

Cleaning

Who will be responsible for cleaning the church?

After any congregational or small group engagement participants are directed to wipe down surfaces with provided disinfectant wipes. Bi-weekly cleanings will continue by our professional cleaning service on Tuesday and Saturday nights. We will ensure that the cleaning service is using appropriate cleaning procedures and approved cleaning products.

How will the pews and other high touch areas be cleaned between uses?

(same)

On what schedule will the bathrooms be cleaned and restocked?

The bathrooms will be cleaned professionally on a biweekly basis. The restrooms will have detailed instructions posted.

Are other modifications or signage needed to support social distancing in bathroom usage?

All our restrooms are single occupancy. Signs will be posted reminding people to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water.

Signage

Where will you post reminders about COVID-19 symptoms and reminders not to attend if sick?



We will place signs outside approaching public spaces reminding folks to remain home if sick. We will publish this in our weekly emails, monthly newsletter, and Sunday order of worship as well as make verbal reminders to this affect.

How will you use signs, floor taping, or other visual guidance to reinforce the need for social distancing? We will use signage on pews limiting seating and we will place tape on the floor spacing between pews to guide households as they approach for communion.

Case Contingency

How will you inform those who were present with the person diagnosed?

In the case that a worshipper be confirmed as having COVID 19 we will communicate by email to the entire congregation that a worshipper attending X worship service has contracted the virus.

We will also communicate directly with people who attended the same worship service as the infected person.

How will you protect the privacy of someone infected while sharing essential information?

It should not be necessary to disclose the name of a person contracting the disease.

Person at the diocese you will inform.

Canon Chambers.

Company you will use to professionally clean space, or other plan for sanitizing:

Our existing company is Kustom Kleaning. They will continue to sanitize our facilities.

Should the rector get sick or need to quarantine who has been designated to take up duties of leadership and communication with the congregation and diocese if necessary.

The deacon (Carol Peterson) will lead services with the assistance of other lay ministers. The rector is also training worship leaders to be able to fill-in in case the absence of a deacon.

The wardens (Charles Schubert and Chris Duckworth) are very capable to guide the congregation in the absence of the rector.

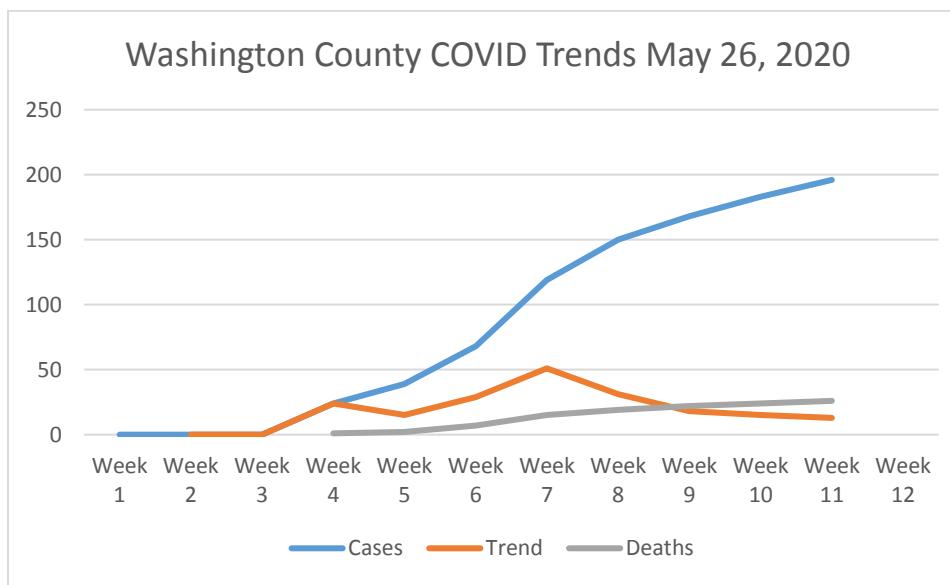


ADDENDUM

Dear Bishop Ryan,

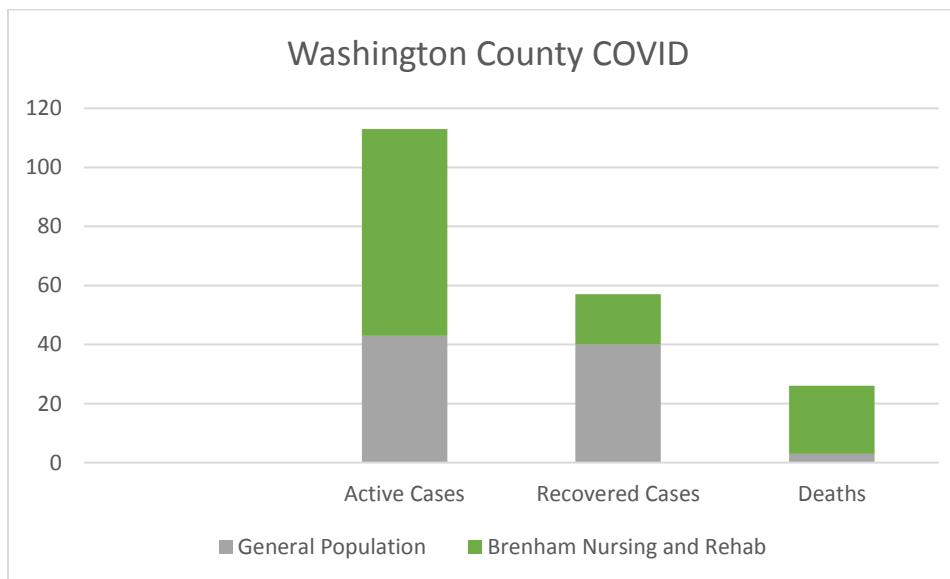
This addendum is offered to your office in response to the highlighted areas of our re-gathering protocol for St. Peter's, Brenham. We hope that these responses will help St. Peter's provide a safer environment in which to gather and address your concerns.

- 1) In reviewing the guidelines regarding singing, we wish to assert our intention to inhibit congregational singing by planning instrumental music (organ/piano) in place of congregational music. Clarification of our original document: We will sit up to 4 choral interns in the chancel spaced out at a minimum of 15 feet. Their function will be to sing the psalm or canticles, and an offertory. The organist/choir master will also sit in the chancel. The altar party (4) comprised of the celebrant, deacon, a Eucharistic minister, and no more than one acolyte will be seated in the sanctuary.
- 2) We intend to print our worship service (which is our custom) without musical portions. Prayer Books and Hymnals have been removed during our remediation and will not be returned until congregational singing is permitted.
- 3) Cleaning restrooms and surfaces: We will designate teams of pew cleaners to disinfect seating and touch areas. These teams will be drawn from usher and greeter teams. We will provide appropriate disinfectant supplies for restrooms with signage encouraging individuals to wipe down surfaces when finished. All our restrooms are single occupancy.
- 4) Current numbers for Washington County:



These numbers above published by Washington County Joint Information Center (Office of Emergency Management) indicate that Washington County's COVID spread is trending down and has been for four weeks.

The graph below shows the relationship between the spread in our general population versus the spread in one of our primary nursing facilities.





As you can see the numbers reflect a large disparity between those shut-in to the nursing home and the general population.

- 5) If a parishioner should contract the disease we will also notify Bishop Ryan.
- 6) Amending the date for gathering: Our original requested date for regathering was May 31, 2020. We would like to amend that date for opening to June 14th. We would like to request a soft opening date for orientation meetings with lay leaders and volunteers after June 6. This would be an abbreviated worship service and orientation in order to practice procedures and to ensure that these safety measures are implemented.