

Reopening Our Church for In-Person Services

Use this decision tree to help you make an informed decision.

<p>①</p> <p>Is our church family and local community ready for us to reopen?</p>	<p>②</p> <p>Are our staff and volunteers adequately trained for reopening?</p>	<p>③</p> <p>Is our facility ready to meet all health and safety requirements?</p>	<p>④</p> <p>Are we able to monitor and adapt to changing needs or requirements?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have we humbly approached reopening in prayer, Scripture, and best available scientific findings? <input type="checkbox"/> Is reopening consistent with current state and local orders and recommendations? <input type="checkbox"/> Have we established a working relationship with appropriate local health authorities? <input type="checkbox"/> Have we received written consultation from our insurance provider about liability concerns? <input type="checkbox"/> Do we have a plan for reopening and communication? <input type="checkbox"/> Will we be able to watch people who are coming into the building for visible COVID-19 symptoms? <input type="checkbox"/> Are we prepared to ask people not to come to church if they have symptoms or recent exposure to someone with COVID-19? <input type="checkbox"/> Have we communicated our reopening process with our members and attendees? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Do we have a reopening team in place? <input type="checkbox"/> Have we trained our team in social distancing measures; hygiene practices such as hand washing and face covering; health and safety protocols; all required record keeping practices; cleaning and disinfecting; the process for arrivals, seating, rituals, exits, and apparent illness; and communicating with each other, members, and attendees? <input type="checkbox"/> Have we clearly assigned responsibilities to people for each aspect of meeting our health and safety requirements? <input type="checkbox"/> Are we prepared with clear ways to respond to people not following safety protocols? <input type="checkbox"/> Have we conducted a reopening rehearsal? <input type="checkbox"/> Try to identify possible challenges or gaps in our plan that need to be addressed before reopening? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Has our building been disinfected and cleaned, and are there procedures for ongoing cleaning and safe disinfectant use? <input type="checkbox"/> Does our building ventilation system meet current health requirements? <input type="checkbox"/> Do we have isolation space for people who appear to be (or become) ill and a plan for transport home or to a medical facility? <input type="checkbox"/> Are social distancing measures for seating, etc. clearly marked, explained, and enforced? <input type="checkbox"/> Do we have masks, tissues, sanitizer, no-touch trash, and signage to promote preventive actions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Do we monitor reliable information sources and have a process for addressing changing circumstances? <input type="checkbox"/> Have we communicated to our members and attendees our current operating plan and criteria that would require them to stay home if they are concerned, ill, or at high risk? <input type="checkbox"/> Do we have alternative worship options for concerned and higher risk individuals? <input type="checkbox"/> Do we have a plan for continued at-home support and care for those who are distancing, high risk, or become ill? <input type="checkbox"/> Have we established regular monitoring and emergency health authority contacts (in case of possible COVID-19 exposure)?
<p>WHEN 'YES' TO ALL, MOVE TO STEP 2.</p>	<p>WHEN 'YES' TO ALL, MOVE TO STEP 3</p>	<p>WHEN 'YES' TO ALL, MOVE TO STEP 4.</p>	<p>WHEN YOU HAVE ADDRESSED THESE QUESTIONS, MOVE FORWARD WITH REOPENING.</p>

Resources to Guide and Support Along the Way

For a free 26-page guide on church reopening, checklist, tip sheets, articles, and disclaimer: www.reopeningthechurch.com

To facilitate spiritual and emotional care from a biblical, research-based perspective visit: www.spiritualfirstaidhub.com

For more on how to begin a master's degree in Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership or a Trauma Certificate at Wheaton College Graduate School: www.wheaton.edu/HDL