

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REOPENING CHURCH

Messiah, Bay City

All of the recommendations occur only after the “Shelter-in-place” order is lifted.

• **Day to day staff work**

The staff is ready to return to the office as soon as order is eased. If May 28 is that date, then we would open the office on June 1 or 2.

- Staff members already work at a distance so there is little risk of sharing infections.
- Outside doors will remain locked and people will have to ring in.
- Visitors will be asked to wear masks if they are staying in the building.
- Visits with pastor will be done by appointment.
- Masks will be worn by staff when interacting with public.
- Sanitizing products will be provided at all work stations.
- Volunteers (Financial Secretary/Treasurer) will operate under similar recommendations.
- Work stations should be wiped down regularly.

• **Building Usage apart from worship**

- Support Groups will be invited back once the state enters Phase 4 (Improving) and will be asked to follow protocol provided by their organizations. The use of face coverings will be strongly encouraged but the church will not provide.
- Private music lessons can resume when we enter Phase 4. How these will work out to be negotiated between instructor and student. A five-minute gap is recommended between students. Handwashing and wearing of masks are encouraged.
- We will work with New Dimensions and their use of the kitchen once they return to regular activities.
- No new activities will be added during the summer.
- Fellowship hour will be officially suspended.
- Drinking fountains will be shut off and signage placed on them to indicate such.

• **Public Worship**

- Every attempt will be made to limit the number of people at each service. If 50 is the recommended number for small group gatherings, then that will be our target.
- CDC Questionnaire will be posted at the door so that people might assess whether they are well enough to participate.
- Intentional invitations will be sent to move some members of the 10:30 worship community to the other two services. The use of the narthex and fellowship hall will assist if it becomes difficult to social distance in the sanctuary.
- The wearing of face coverings will be required. Everyone should bring their own mask, however, disposable one time use masks will be available at the two entrances to the building. For those who prefer not to wear a mask, we will make one of the classrooms available where they can hear the service.
- Half of the pews will be taped off allowing people to sit every other pew. Family units may sit together. Others will be encouraged to sit @6’ apart. Seats will be arranged to assist in this process.

- Pens, friendship pads and pew cards and envelopes will be removed from the pew for the foreseeable future.
- Tables will be placed at the two entrances to the sanctuary. These will hold worship bulletins, offering plates, offering envelopes and pens.
- The font remains empty at the recommendation of the bishop.
- Sharing of the peace and other physical contact will be eliminated for the time being.
Clipboards and other signup sheets will be left in the narthex.
- Distribution of communion will be continuous using wafers and individual disposable wine glasses. We will operate by section and invite people to come forward one pew at a time. Wine trays will be placed on a bar stool and people will pick up the glass as they pass by. Communion Assistants will stand back
- The custodian will be present on Sundays to wipe down surfaces between services. This will replace one of his regular work days.
- Keep a list of attendees so that if a participant tests positive at a later date, we would have contact tracing information available.