

May 2020



RETURN TO CHURCH

Plan and Policies



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Introduction

For the past few months, while we have been concerned for religious liberty, we have nevertheless followed the guidance of our government for the safety of others and canceled all church services in order to practice social distancing during the COVID-19 breakout.

Now, as our president is urging cautious return to business, our state's "safer at home" end date of mid-May is approaching, and Lancaster is moving to a "Phase 2" opening for city affairs, we feel a stirring from God to prepare adequately and safely for the slow and safe return to worship. We have sought legal and medical counsel, as well as consultation with our elected officials, in making this plan. Mostly, we are sensitive to the leading of the Lord in the process.

Please recognize that this is a work in progress with many variables. Churches in states with less sickness may return to worship earlier, and smaller churches may mobilize more quickly. We all need to study and prepare for the issue in context of our circumstances.

It is imperative that WCF return with proper patience, understanding, and biblical conviction. Church members and workers are urged to read this document in order to participate in upcoming services. We all desire safety as instructed by government leaders (Romans 13), and we desire to obey the command of Scripture to assemble and worship (Hebrews 10:25). We believe church is essential! Let's work together to make this happen for the glory of God and with a right testimony to those who have not yet trusted Christ as Savior.

Note: This is still a work in progress and will change in the days and weeks to come.

Lead Pastor
Shane Idleman



SECTION ONE

Regarding Senior Citizens/Those with Underlying Health Conditions/ Primary Caregivers for People with Underlying Conditions



Section One

Regarding Senior Citizens/
Those with Underlying
Health Conditions/ Primary
Caregivers for People with
Underlying Conditions

Because of the dangers related to COVID-19, we are asking all members age 65 and older and members of all ages who have underlying health conditions such as breathing conditions, cancer treatments, suppressed immune systems, etc, to please stay home and continue worshiping via livestream, at least initially.

It may be necessary for those folks to stay away from “crowds” longer, however, we must start with this safety measure.

Who Is at Risk?

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.



- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

Section One

Regarding Senior Citizens/
Those with Underlying
Health Conditions/ Primary
Caregivers for People with
Underlying Conditions

If we become aware that someone who has been in a service becomes ill, we will ask the person to stay home and seek medical care if needed. Persons should stay at home for at least fourteen days after symptoms started AND a week after symptoms are improved and fever resolves without the use of fever-reducing medications.

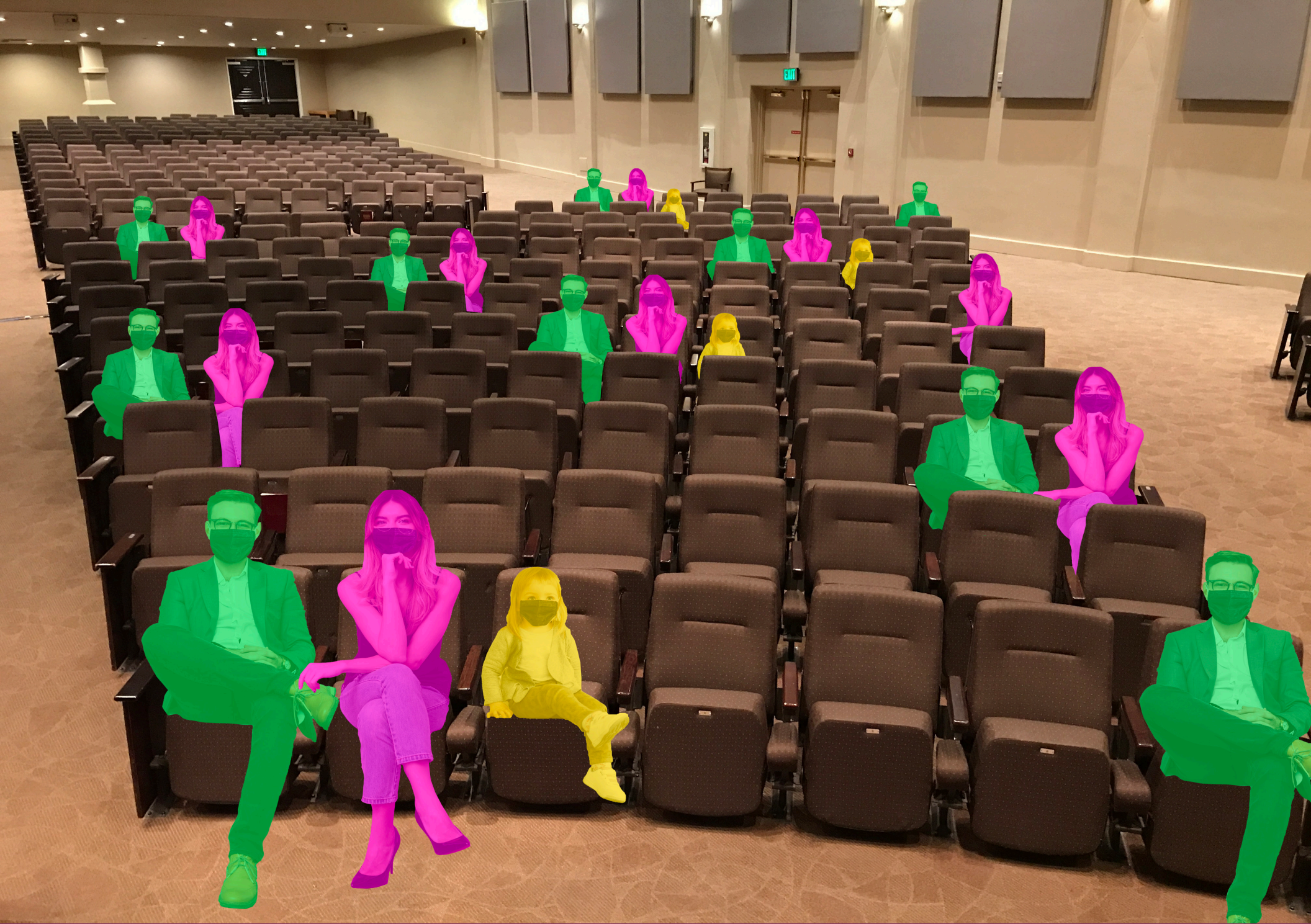
Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website, April 2020

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>



SECTION TWO

Social Distancing





Section Two

Social Distancing

Signs will be posted around our church campus, and shall be observed by members and guests on return to campus. No one should plan to attend services who is known to have had any recent contact with a known COVID-19 confirmed case.

Members are asked to wear a mask until further notice and to maintain six feet of distance when speaking to one another. (Please remember to bring masks with you to the service). Adults and children age 5 and older will need masks.

Temperature checks may be required initially.

To simplify this process, the following practices shall be observed:

DO

- ✓ Wear a mask (ages 5 and up)
- ✓ Wash your hands before and after services
- ✓ Stay six feet from others
- ✓ Cover your coughs or sneezes
- ✓ Visit hand sanitizer stations frequently
- ✓ Be willing to have your temperature taken

DON'T

- ✗ Shake hands
- ✗ Hug others
- ✗ Come to church if you are sick
- ✗ Touch your hands, nose, and mouth
- ✗ Leave trash in the Main Auditorium



Section Two

Social Distancing

Volunteers

With the help of our volunteers, we will be observing these distancing policies:

- Parking lot attendants will wear masks.
- In the parking lot, we may use every other parking space.
- Ushers will wear masks.
- Ushers will wear gloves if passing out or collecting materials.
- Attenders and ushers will maintain social distancing of six feet at all times from the time we drive onto the property and exit our car until the time we get back into our cars after the service.
- Auditorium doors will be propped open to avoid the touching of door handles.
- Hallways and aisles will be clearly marked for one-way foot traffic. Please follow all signage inside the building.
- Doors will be designated as “entrance-only” or “exit-only.” Please observe all signage.
- Ushers will seat attenders before the services. Families will sit together. There will be sufficient spacing between families.



Section Two

Social Distancing

- We will sit every other row, and staggered in the rows in an alternate seating pattern to ensure social distancing. Distancing will be kept in all directions—front, back, left, and right.
- At the end of the services, ushers will dismiss attenders in a controlled orderly manner maintaining social distancing. Ushers may need to direct people to a specific exit door. There will be no gatherings at doorways.
- We will not be distributing a service bulletin or printed outline. We will continue to email bulletin announcements to the church family.
- No coffee or food will be shared on campus.
- Playgrounds on the property will be closed.

Invitation/Altar Call

- At the end of the message, attenders will be encouraged to make decisions for Christ in their seat or speak privately with a leader.
- After the services, people needing prayer may utilize the prayer-room while observing social distancing guidelines. However, the prayer-room can only accommodate approximately 12 people under these new guidelines; therefore, prayer-team members will also be available under the prayer tent through the rear exits by the prayer room.



Section Two

Social Distancing

Believer's Baptism

When we resume baptisms, we will observe these social distancing policies:

- Baptistry workers and those being baptized will wear face coverings.
- Baptistry workers will wear gloves and will maintain six feet of distance as much as possible.
- People getting baptized will bring their own clothing.
- We will provide a baptismal T-shirt for them when they get baptized.

Children's Ministry

- As of now there will be no Children's Ministry or nursery but that may change soon.
- The nursery will be used for nursing moms while maintaining social distancing.
- Kids will need to stay with their parents at all times.
- Children 5 and older will need a mask.



Section Two

Social Distancing

When Children's Ministry resumes, these will be some of the guidelines:

- A maximum of 10 children will be allowed in a nursery or classroom. When a room hits capacity, we will move a child to the nearest room closest to their age group.
- Chairs and tables in each nursery/classroom will be configured for six-foot distancing.
- We will prevent the sharing of toys and materials among the children. We will have crayons in separate sealing storage bags. We will encourage children to play with toys individually with puzzles, blocks, coloring pages, etc. and not in groups.

A grayscale background image showing a person wearing gloves, using a brush and a spray bottle to clean a carpet. The person's hands and arms are visible, and the spray bottle is being held over the carpet. The overall scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the cleaning process.

SECTION THREE

The Sanitization of Our Facilities



Section Three

The Sanitization of Our Facilities

While WCF has always maintained high quality standards of cleaning our facilities, many adjustments have been made in order to prevent illness from spreading in our common areas.

Facility Janitorial/Maintenance

- Every worker, staff member, and/or volunteer performing cleaning tasks will be required to wear a mask and gloves while working at all times. New gloves will be put on after completing a restroom or area of the building.
- Only cleaning products provided by the ministry will be used. Approved cleaning products use these chemicals: Isopropyl Alcohol, Nonionic Surfactant, Quaternary Ammonium Chloride.
- Every worker, staff member, and/or volunteer will adhere to the six foot social distancing rule while working.

Entry Doors/Lobbies

- Handles to all entry/exit doors are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Handles to all restroom and closet doors are being sanitized before and after each service, and once an hour during services.
- Counters, tables, Guest Service Counters, staircase rails, and all lobby furniture is being sanitized before and after each service.
- Drinking fountains are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Sanitizer stations are cleaned, checked for functionality, and refilled before and after each service.



Section Three

The Sanitization of Our Facilities

- Light switches are sanitized before and after every service.
- Facial tissue will be available in the lobbies and restrooms.

Restrooms

- Cleaning schedules are posted on the wall inside each restroom.
- Every worker, staff member, and/or volunteer performing cleaning tasks will be required to wear a mask and gloves while working at all times. New gloves will be put on after completing each restroom.
- Toilets, urinals, and sinks will be sanitized before each service and after. We are encouraging members to please use the restroom at home before heading to church.
- Counters and surfaces will be sanitized before and after every service and once an hour during services.

Auditorium and Balcony

- Handles to all entry/exit doors are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Chairs and tables used by the ushers are being sanitized before and after each service.
- After each service, the arms of each chair will be sanitized.
- Immediately after each service, the entire auditorium will be sanitized.
- After each service, we will remove all trash and left over personal items from the auditorium. Personal items will be taken to the lost and found.



SECTION FOUR

Service Times



Section Four

Service Times

We anticipate rolling out our services in incremental steps as guidance is received.

In the event of resurgence of COVID-19, or another pandemic, we will use similar philosophy going forward.

Also, depending upon governmental and medical guidelines, we could change the schedule, and we will communicate these changes as clearly and consistently as possible.

Sunday Morning Service Schedule

- We will see how 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. work, and then go from there.
- We will have overflow in the multipurpose room and the KC building.
- Each family will be separated by 3–4 seats from the next family.
- Ushers will seat members and alternate seating patterns to ensure social distancing.

Wednesday Evening Service

- Initially, we will not meet on Wednesday nights, but we will continue to livestream Wednesday night services.



APPENDIX
Concepts and Resources



Appendix

Resources

1. “COVID-19 Suggested Church Reopening Guidelines,” Christian Law Association, Dr. David Gibbs
2. “Guidelines for Opening Up America Again,” prepared by the White House and CDC, April 2020
3. Interim Guidance for Administrators and Leaders of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>, April 2020
4. “Checklist for Churches—Reopening of Indoor Services,” Pacific Justice Institute, April 2020
5. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Faith-Based Organizations, <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/community/>



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