

Brooklyn Baptist Church Pandemic Re-Opening Document

Updated September 2020

After much prayer and thorough research, the following precautions will be in place when church resumes in-person services. As your pastors and deacons, we have devised this plan out of consideration for the health and well-being of our congregants and ask that you join with us as we take care of each other by following the rules set up in this document. This document is a starting point, and as circumstances change some things in this document may change.

Sanitation

- At least 2 hand sanitizer stations will be set up around the sanctuary and at least 1 in the vestry.
- A designated person will be sanitizing railings and doorknobs during high-traffic times, i.e. before and after church.
- People must sanitize their hands before entering and before they leave, as well as after using the washroom.
- 1 washroom (the vestry washroom) will be available, the other blocked off. A designated person will sit near the vestry door during the service and will sanitize the taps and toilet seat after each user.
- There will be no physical bulletins or papers, no communion plate passing, or offering plate passing. People can place their offering in designated boxes before or after the service either on their way in or out. Communion, if it is to take place, will be in pre-packaged cups.
- Any instruments or hand-held microphones used during the service can only be used by one person for the whole service and the items used will be sanitized after the service. The pulpit microphone will also be sanitized after each use.
- Hymn books, pens, and other items in the pew baskets will be removed to reduce time sanitizing afterwards. Pews will be washed with soap and water after each service.
- The classrooms, kitchen, and vestry (unless for washroom use) will remain closed off.

Seating + Placements

- Physical distancing will be enforced at all times wherever possible.
- Maximum seating capacity at this time is 36 people.
- 9 households can be seated, one pew apart, one household per pew.
- There will be arrows going around the sanctuary ensuring low-contact flow for entering and exiting.
- The front door of the church shall be used for entrance only.
- The side door shall be used as an entrance only for those with mobility issues. The side door shall be used as an exit for all people at the end of the service.

- There will be clear signs of sanitizer stations, proper blockage of unusable pews, and clear arrows of where to walk.
- 2 designated people, 1 by the front door and 1 by the side door, will guide people to their seats, front to back.
- Instead of being dismissed all at once, people will be dismissed by sections, front to back.
- There will be 1 designated person to encourage physical distancing in areas where people would normally gather.
- If anyone wishes to sit on a cushion, it will have to be brought from the individual's home and must be taken home after the service. Cushions cannot be provided by the church.
- Two households who have chosen to interact with each other and go to church and sit with each other during the provincial state of emergency must fill out the Church Entry Form for Bubbled Households 7 days before attending a service together at Brooklyn Baptist Church. It must be filled out in full and signed by at least one adult member from each household. We strongly encourage congregants to stick with the same household to come to church with. This form only needs to be filled out once, however if either family wishes to come with a different household, it will need to be filled out again 7 days in advance before the next church service. The 7 days will not begin until the form has been received by the pastors. If the form is filled out online, both families will need to fill out the form separately, but if it is on a paper copy, only one signed copy is needed.

Air Concerns

- There will be no congregational singing to reduce the risk of airborne contact. Humming is permitted.
- Masks are required – no one may enter the building without one and no one can remove their mask once inside unless they are asked to speak or sing at a microphone. Clean masks will be ready to give away to those who arrive without one.
- If people would like to socialize, they will be asked to go outside to do so in order to reduce the risk of airborne contact.
- 2 people will be on mask duty – ensuring that everyone who enters has a mask, and one will be at each outdoor entrance.

Other Concerns

- To keep track of who attends our services in case of a possible outbreak, there will be 2 attendance takers who will record names and phone numbers of all who enter the building. If someone who attended were to contract COVID-19, we would contact everyone on the list who attended the last two Sundays that individual attended before getting sick, as well as send the list of names of all attenders from the last two Sundays to the Department of Health. Should someone get sick, their name would be kept anonymous when contacting other attenders. One attendance taker will be at each outdoor entrance.

- Parents and guardians are responsible to ensure their children abide by social distancing rules and wear a mask for the whole service. Sunday school and children's church will be suspended until further notice. In-seat activities for children will be available.
- Individuals with compromised immune systems as well as those in their households will be encouraged to enjoy the service from home for their own safety.
- People will be reminded that they must not attend in person if they are experiencing the most common symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, which include cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat. Anyone who has travelled internationally or between provinces outside the Atlantic Bubble in the last 14 days, or has had close contact with someone who has, or is awaiting a COVID-19 test result, or has had close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days will be asked to stay home for a minimum of 2 Sundays before returning.
- There will be proper signage placed throughout the church outlining policies such as physical distancing expectations, proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette (coughing and sneezing into elbow), cleaning and disinfection practices and expectations, as well as signs to notify people that they should not attend if they have symptoms of COVID-19.