



REOPENING PLAN
4 Phases

Introduction

On Sunday morning, March 15, we made the decision to cancel our Sunday morning services. This was a decision that was based on guidelines given by Gov. Roy Cooper through an Executive Order. When that decision was made, we moved quickly to implement a drive-in format so that we could continue to gather for worship safely. Many of our members and those from the community joined us. We had no idea that we would use the drive-in format for 15 weeks before we could gather in-person again. Since that time, the pandemic grew in ways few imagined, and restrictions on in-person gatherings shifted several times. Our pastors and staff have responded to these restrictions by conducting livestream worship services and drive-in services, and through providing Zoom access to Bible Fellowship classes and small groups that request it. Regular phone calls and social media will help keep our church families informed.

On July 5, 2020, we began meeting in-person with a limited capacity with a maximum of 300, which is 38% of our seating capacity. We regularly monitored the Executive Orders that Gov. Roy Cooper issued to ensure that we are following guidelines that are laid forth, especially any relating to churches. As 2021 began and the restrictions on businesses and large group gatherings began to ease, we believed it was time to plan a gradual, responsible and safety conscious, plan for reopening our church campus beyond reduced, in-person worship gatherings. This was to be done with government, CDC and other health professionals' guidelines in mind. Our phases are outlined below and are based on changing health trends and guidelines.

Executive Summary

Denver Baptist Church leaders are committed to making each service the best it can be while still submitting to the larger scope of wisdom regarding in-person gatherings. Clearly, this situation is fluid, yet, in spite of the uncertainty, we developed a phased plan to reopen our campus based on the best available information. This plan prioritizes love for our neighbors by keeping people safe (Mt 22:39), showing proper, biblical respect for government authority (Rom 13:1), and demonstrating that we trust our Church family to make wise decisions.

There is no question that our desire is to gather in-person, and we have and continue to be committed to doing so in a safe and responsible way through a phased approach. A phased transition allows for a measured and prudent conversion from the online only era to in-person gatherings across the full range of church activities. Deciding how to move through the phases is complex. Although we are monitoring the situation and working in conjunction with our state and local authorities, the reality is our Governor will establish the criteria for the transition between phases and dictate the precautions. Denver Baptist will employ the following best practices:

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Best Practices for Health Safety

- **Medical professionals:** We will work with medical professionals to develop best practices related to the health of those attending in-person worship gatherings.
 - **General Guidance:** Each person has a responsibility to look out for the welfare of others. If you suspect that you or a member of your family have symptoms, stay home until the period has expired and/or testing has occurred. From the CDC - symptoms may appear **2-14 days** after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms **may** have COVID-19:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Or at least **two** of these symptoms:
- Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell
- **Appropriate social distancing:** Since the standard is 6 feet for appropriate social distancing, we will utilize that standard in calculating the distance between family units in pews, worship leaders, and all volunteers and staff.
 - **Provide COVID-19 protection:** We will have a limited number of masks on-hand and will provide hand sanitizing stations throughout the building. We will not mandate the wearing of masks, but we will encourage use of them.
 - **Discourage personal contact:** We will discontinue meet and greet times in worship and maintain social distancing.
 - **Clean & clean again:** Protocols will be implemented to reduce the spread of the virus on campus.
 - **CDC Guidelines:** We will follow specific CDC guidance for childcare or educational programming for children and youth. We encourage those with underlying health conditions to avoid in-person gatherings (for a detailed list, see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>).

Worship and Bible Fellowship Options

- **We offer livestreaming and in-person worship services.** In this way, the church provides two options: limited in-person worship and livestreaming online.
 - **We provide pre-registration** for in-person worship and any group events with 20+ participants to limit attendees, based on the Governor's guidelines and our capacity with social distancing
- measures in place. Pre-registration will be in place through Phase One. Although we have reduced seating capacity for in-person worship services, family units can be seated together.
- **Small groups/Bible Fellowship classes** will continue to meet online in early phases. In late Phase 1 and certainly by Phase 2, classrooms are available for groups to meet with limited seating capacity and social distancing.

FOR FURTHER RESEARCH ON COVID-19:

CDC's main COVID-19 Web page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

North Carolina Department of Health COVID-19 Web page: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>

North Carolina Governor's COVID-19 Web page: <https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/covid-19-updates>

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DENVER BAPTIST FOUR PHASE PLAN

Social Distancing	PHASE ZERO Began 3/15/20	PHASE ONE Began 7/12/20 (Limited)	PHASE TWO Beginning 4/4/21 (Moderated)	PHASE THREE TBD (Normal)
Vulnerable Populations*	Stay Home	Individual Discretion	Individual Discretion	Individual Discretion
Those w/Symptoms of COVID-19	Stay Home	Stay Home	Stay Home	Stay Home
Max Groups/Crowds	10 or less	38% Capacity/ Reduced Seating/ Social Distancing	50% Capacity/ Reduced Seating/ Moderate Social Distancing	Normal Capacity
Worship Service	Drive-in service/ Livestream	Reduced Seating to 300/Registration required/Masks on until seated/ Livestream	Reduced Seating to 400/Registration no longer required/ Masks optional/ Livestream	Regular seating/ Livestream
Bible Fellowship & Small Groups	None, Online Only, or Off- Campus	Online/ Few meeting on- campus / Most meeting in homes based on individual choice	Modified size of on- campus classes & groups / some online based on choice	Normal Campus Class Options Available
Preschool & Children	Closed	Limited Wee Connect beginning 9/5/20. Some activities may resume.	Modified class sizes	Normal
Students	Online Only	Some activities may resume.	Normal Activity/Social Distancing	Normal Activity
Office Staff	Office Closed to Public	Normal Operation with reduced hours	Normal Operation	Normal Operation
Ministry Events	Cancelled	Cancelled	Some activities may be modified	As Scheduled
Restrooms	Closed	Normal	Normal	Normal

***Vulnerable Populations as Defined by the CDC:** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>).

Vulnerable populations include, but are not limited to:

- Individuals 65 years old and older
- Individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised (such as by chemotherapy or cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy)

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FAQ

How will we make sure people are not sitting too close to one another?

We will utilize the CDC recommendation of 6' per person separation guideline and configure our chair seating setup accordingly. Family units, defined as people residing in the same home, can sit together.

Where do I enter?

We will limit access into the building to the front glass doors for the Worship Center and the north entrance doors. In addition, all external and internal doors will be propped open or held open by a Greeter / Shepherd, to ensure a "touchless" entry.

Should I wear a mask?

Yes, until we begin Phase Two of our reopening plan (or otherwise noted) everyone is asked to wear a mask unless they are at their seat in the Worship Center. Information from CDC on cloth face coverings indicates wearing a mask reduces the potential for transmission of the COVID-19 virus. We will have a limited number of masks available for those who desire to wear one. Until Phase Two, we recommend people bring and wear masks when they enter the building.

How will the offering be received?

During drive-in church, we utilized giving buckets, as well online giving and mail-in giving which are always available. Once in-person worship services resume, donation boxes are available at the Worship Center exit doors since offering plates will not be passed.

What about Communion?

Celebrating communion will not be possible until we resume in-person worship services. With in-person services, we will use a prepackaged communion cup which worshippers can pick up on their way into the Worship Center. We will not be passing communion trays with the elements.

Will there be Children's Ministry available?

At first, there will be no Children's Ministry available during Phase One. It is not possible to ask preschoolers to social distance! As such, we have determined that our "safest" approach is to follow the lead of our Public School System. As schools reopen on some schedule, we will begin to reopen Wee Connect with a reservation to monitor our capacity. It will be limited in scope. We hope to open other GospelKidz Ministry areas when the timing is appropriate.

What happens at the conclusion of the service?

We know that you may want to stay and visit, however, you are requested to maintain social distancing while moving to your cars using any exit from the Worship Center. As Phase Two approaches, we will relax this request.

Who do I contact if I have questions I need answered before returning to on-campus church activities?

You are encouraged to call the office at 704-483-3030 with any questions.