

Lexington Christian Church's Re-Opening Plan

The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has drastically changed how life takes place in the year 2020. And our church has felt that change. Back on March 22nd, our church made the decision to close its doors due to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). During that time, LCC has continued to offer our worship services through live streaming through our Facebook page, pre-recorded services, and audio recordings to continually point people to our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. We continue to do our best to love on families through these and other virtual methods so that God continues to get the glory through all of this. Eventually, we reopened on Sunday May 31st and went several weeks being able to worship in person as well as live stream. However, the month of July saw a staggering spike in active Coronavirus cases that led to the precautionary decision to reclose the doors of our church on Sunday July 19th. We went back to strictly online services and have been so as of this writing.

However, the number of recovered cases in Henderson County are higher than active cases. Each day more recoveries are outnumbering active cases, which leads us to determine that people in our county are doing their part to slow the spread of this virus. So it is with prayer, wisdom, and patience that our leadership has decided that on **Sunday, September 13th, 2020**, Lexington Christian Church plans to reopen its doors for worship. We praise God for the way He has been working in our area and look forward to making this happen and, Lord willing, not having to go through another closing of our doors. That being said, COVID-19 continues to be an active virus and there still needs to be a continued exercise of caution.

If you consider yourself high-risk, have any pre-existing medical conditions that COVID-19 could infect, or if you work in a high-risk environment of possible exposure, we encourage you to continue to utilize our online platform to worship with us until evidence is shown of the virus slowing down.

However, if you feel you are in good health and have social distanced yourself to the best of your ability, then we hope you will join us. At the same time, the leadership here at LCC is taking precautions to help provide a healthy and safe environment for everyone who desires to come in person. So, we are introducing specific “**PHASES**” of our reopening that will be implemented for the safety and protection of all in-house participants. Here is how each phase will work based on compliances with the leadership of the church, along with local and state government regulations and recommendations...

Note: All current revisions will be in the color “Blue”.

Phase 1:

- Everyone (adults, teens, and children) will be required to wear a mask as you enter the building. **Once seated and settled for the service, everyone can chose to take their mask off if they desire. We simply ask that you put them back on for when we take communion and if you need to get up and move around.**
- We will only be opening the church office entrance of our building for people to enter (North Foyer). So, please park only on that side. If all parking spots are filled, you may use the front of the building to park as well.
- The 10 am worship service will be our only service we offer.
- Children’s programming **will not** be offered during Phase 1. Children are welcome to come but will need to sit with their families in the worship center.
- Door greeters will be the only ones to open and close the glass doors. One person will be door opener and the other to be greeting with vocal or hand gesture (no touching).
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all areas where people will gather. Feel free to use it when necessary.
- **We will be checking temperatures before you enter the worship center. We will be using a touchless thermometer that will make the process quick and simple.**
- Families may sit together but keep 4-6 feet of distance from other families.
- We will not offer a formal greeting time during our service.
- Communion and offering will be a combined moment of reflection in our worship service.
 - **We ask that you please observe the marked areas of the floor and social distance as you come forward to give your offering and take communion.**
 - We are asking people to come forward to give their tithe/offering and take the communion emblems with them. They will be dismissed by section and stand on marked areas to keep social distancing guidelines.
 - Offering plates will be available for your tithe or offering to be dropped off as you first come forward.
 - Servers of communion will wear masks and gloves to serve people by placing the emblems on the table for the person(s) to pick up to avoid hand-to-hand contact.
 - Communion will be prepared with two cups, one for bread and one for juice stacked on top of each other.
 - **Once you have your communion, please use the middle isle to return to your seat. This is to keep the front from being congested and to observe proper social distancing**

- If someone can't physically come forward for communion and offering, they can raise their hand and a server that is designated will serve them.
- Doors to the Worship Center and Activity Center will be propped open before the service and remain open until after the service to prevent multiple touching of the doors. In the event of an emergency, only safety team members may close the doors.
- **The Activity Center will be available if needed.** Beverages and food will not be available in Phase 1. If you want a beverage, please bring your own and observe that food and drink are not allowed in the Worship Center, with the exception of water.
- **Live Stream Online Services will still be available for those that chose to join us online from home. You will be counted as a part of our attendance that Sunday.**
- Facilities will be cleaned and sanitized a few days before and after Sunday services.
- Bulletins will be on every other chair instead of greeters handing them out.
- **Bottles of water will be put out on a separate table for people to serve themselves.**

Phase 2:

Most of Phase 1 will still be in place, but with the following changes in Phase 2...

- Coffee and doughnuts will be served to the people by servers wearing masks, gloves, and using serving tongs. Servers should wash or sanitize hands often.
- Table Shields will be in front of the kitchen bar for health and safety purposes.
- **Live Stream Online services will still remain available for those that chose to join us online from home. Again, you will be considered a part of our attendance for that Sunday.**
- The 9 AM Sunday morning Bible Study will resume meeting in person in the fellowship hall while observing social distancing guidelines.
- **Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study will resume in person and Zoom in the worship center. Everyone will be encouraged to social distance. Zoom will be available for those that can't come in person.**

Phase 3:

- Children's programming resumes (all ages and grades)
- Use of masks will be by individual/family choice.
- Adults may get their own food and beverages but continue to use caution.
- Children 13 and younger will be served doughnuts and water
- Regular seating can resume in the worship center.
- Live Streaming via our Facebook page of our service will still remain available.

Changes Going Forward That Will Remain...

- No more official “Greeting Time” with 3-minute timer.
- Communion and Offering method will remain in place.
- Live Stream Online services will still remain available with a designated moderator to engage our online viewers, so they feel a part of the worship service.
- **Zoom will be utilized for those unable to attend in person Bible Studies or meetings.**

Important to Remember in all Phases...

- Continue to practice social distancing until we hear of changes to COVID-19 taking place.
- Continue to use good hygiene. Wash hands with soap and water often for at least 20 secs or use hand sanitizer when you are unable to wash hands.
- Because of the nature of COVID-19, each person is responsible for his/her decision to attend in person or stay at home based on their own health and their own discretion.
- If you know you are sick or your child is sick or you have been exposed to the virus, please stay home.
- Based on the unknown factors of the virus, these phases are fluid. Each phase will be evaluated on a week to week basis.
- God is in control. Continue to pray and have faith that God will see us through this unique season and that we can continue to show the love of Jesus in whatever season of life we face.
- Pray, Pray, and pray some more! There is not a go-to handbook for how to navigate this. The leaders of our church are prayerfully doing their best to make the best possible decisions for our church body during this pandemic. Please pray for God’s wisdom and perseverance. Please also pray for God’s protection against the devil. He will try to find something to cause friction, division, rushed decisions, you name it, to cause chaos and dissension. This is just as much of a spiritual battle as it is a physical one.

DISCLAIMER:

- ❖ These guidelines are subject to change as our leadership deems necessary based on new information or numbers are given.
- ❖ These guidelines have been approved by the leadership of Lexington Christian Church. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to any elder of our church and the minister.