

## **Re-Opening Procedure for First Presbyterian Church of Davenport**

Approved by Session June 15, 2020

### **Guiding Values**

The Session of First Presbyterian Church created a Pandemic Task Force (PTF) composed of FPC staff members and dedicated volunteers, including medical staff. The Task Force was tasked with assessing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on church activities and to develop a plan to resume them when appropriate. Following the announcement from Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds allowing the resumption of in-person worship services, the PTF has worked to finalize a resumption plan.

The Task Force reviewed resumption recommendations from medical, religious and governmental sources while keeping in mind the overriding goal to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission for the members, visitors and staff of First Presbyterian Church. To this end the PTF has developed a staged approach to re-opening with a defined set of conditions for moving from one stage to the next. These are outlined below.

### **Conditions for Re-Opening**

In order to safely resume in-person activities, these overall conditions must be met:

- PPE must be readily available for healthcare professionals
- Activities must be permitted by Iowa COVID-19 guidelines

FPC will gradually increase in-person activities through four steps. These are the conditions which mark these steps:

- Step 1: Consistently >1 death per day in our nine-county metro area (Scott, Muscatine, Johnson, Clinton, Cedar, Mercer, Rock Island, Henry, and Whiteside)
- Step 2: Consistently <1 death per day for 3 consecutive weeks
- Step 3: Consistently <5 cases per day for 3 consecutive weeks
- Step 4: Consistently <1 case per day for 3 consecutive weeks

After conditions for the next step are met for one week, the church will give two weeks' notice of our intention to move to that step. It is certainly possible that progress may stagnate or even regress - if needed, activity will move to a lower step to keep our congregation safe.

## Stage Descriptions

**Stage 1:** The church building is only open for staff and essential volunteers (video editing, check signing, etc). Each room can contain a maximum of five people. There are no official church gatherings in person. Worship, Bible studies, and other activities are available online.

### Stages 2-4:

- **Records:** Everyone in a gathering must sign in with their name (or household name and # in group), contact information, and seat number. The Membership Coordinator will be responsible for keeping these records for at least three weeks.
- **Spacing:** Households must remain at least six feet apart. To encourage safe spacing, seats will be marked off by maintenance staff.
- **Illness:** Anyone who has tested positively for COVID-19 must avoid in-person gatherings until approved by a doctor. Anyone who has been in contact with someone who has tested positively for COVID-19 must avoid in-person gatherings until they have received negative test results. Anyone who is waiting for COVID test results, coughing, has a fever, or other symptoms of illness must avoid in-person gatherings and is advised to seek medical attention.
- **Cleaning:** After each gathering, items which have been used and indoor surfaces will be cleaned. For this cleaning to be most effective, participants should take the shortest path to their gathering.
- Gatherings are encouraged to meet outside. If that is not possible, they are encouraged to meet in well-ventilated rooms with high ceilings.
- Participants are encouraged to frequently wash their hands and use hand sanitizer.
- If possible, gatherings should be less than an hour.
- Gatherings with the same regular participants are safer than gatherings with different participants each week. It is safer to sit facing one direction.
- Strenuous physical activity is not permitted indoors, as it deepens breathing.
- Traffic flow directions will be marked to prevent crowding. Only one household will be permitted in the elevator at a time.

### Stage 2:

- People over age two must wear masks or face shields for all gatherings, including entering and leaving the church property. Masks or face shields will be provided if needed.
- Small groups are permitted to gather with a maximum of fifteen people. Groups are separated by age: Age 0-40 and 40-65, and 65 and over.
- In-person worship services have a maximum of 50 people. Offerings will be deposited in boxes, and no items will be passed. Worship will also be available online. There will be 90 minutes between worship for cleaning, and ushers will help ensure social distancing.
- No in-person singing during gatherings.

### Stage 3:

- People over age two must wear masks or face shields for all gatherings, including entering and leaving the church property.
- Groups up to 50 people are permitted to gather.
- In-person worship services have a maximum of 100 people, with restrictions from step two.
- No in-person singing during gatherings.

**Stage 4:**

- Masks or face shields are encouraged.
- Small groups are permitted to gather as in step three.
- In-person worship services may have more than 100 people, with previous restrictions.
- No in-person singing during gatherings.

These stages will end when our community has rapid result testing, 95% effective treatment, or a distributed vaccine.

Guidelines sourced from: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/may-web-only/when-churches-reopen-phase-coronavirus-covid-19-guidelines.html>