



Physical Re-Engagement Plan 2020



INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

We are grateful for your partnership in the gospel through loving this community, sacrificially giving of your time and resources, and joyfully engaging in ministry during this challenging time. You have continued to be the salt and light in this community and around the world. Our mission as a church, *Knowing Jesus Intimately, Serving Jesus Passionately, and Sharing Jesus Globally*, continues in the midst of COVID-19. Your spiritual growth and physical well-being continues to be our prayer and focus. Precautions we have created during this time do not stem from the fear of COVID-19 or even death. In Christ, we are no longer enslaved to such fear. (*Hebrews 2:14*) At the same time, such assurance does not mean we run carelessly into danger and unnecessarily expose others to the same. (*Proverbs 22:3*) Precautions taken during this time have been difficult for us as a church. We miss each other's smiles, worshipping together as a family, and being in community with one another. This time has likely been a hard lesson in discovering how many good gifts we simply took for granted before COVID-19. But even in missing these good things, we can remember that **a day will dawn when our fellowship and closeness will never be hindered again by Satan, sin, or sickness.**

Attached you will find a [Physical Re-Engagement Plan](#) for First Baptist Belton. This plan was not developed lightly. The burden to protect our people and the desire to help us maintain strong spiritual walks and fellowship have gone hand in hand in every prayer over the last few months. I hope through the following introduction you will understand the background for the attached plan. Although none of our local doctors have been cited, we have worked closely with them and their sentiments generally echo these two experts in their caution about proceeding safely and slowly and we greatly appreciate their input.

According to Peter Hotez, MD PhD: *Within a few weeks, we will reach the awful milestone of 100,000 new COVID19 cases per day, next 225,000 deaths by October 30, and possibly 300,000 deaths by the end of 2020. We just surpassed 65,000 new cases per day, and he estimates that currently one-quarter of all the world's COVID19 cases now occur in the Southern US. This COVID19 public health impact does not include the many "recovered" patients with long-lasting disabilities resulting from virus injury to their lungs, vascular system, and heart, as well as potentially long-term neurologic and cognitive deficits. Soon, practically every American will personally know someone who has gotten very sick or hospitalized with COVID19. **We have already seen this in our own membership with the loss of a member and several parents and relatives of members.***

According to Dr. Emily Smith, PhD, MSPH and recognized local epidemiologist (who also happens to be a former First Baptist Belton member), a way for churches to love their neighbors like Jesus encourages us is to do our part to protect the most vulnerable population. Smith sees caring for these high-risk populations as a way to love your neighbor.

"To me, my neighbors are the most Vulnerable Population in our city. And this affects all decisions I make of where I go or do not go. As a person under the age of 50, I change my behavior for those over the age of 50. As a person with no underlying health conditions, I change my behavior for those with underlying conditions. As a person with insurance and relative wealth, I change my behavior for those without. So, as Christians please ask yourself if your actions affect those that are Vulnerable Population and if we are using our freedom in Christ according to the Cross

through self-less love. To me, that means I worship online with my family, which has been a sweet time for my little family of four, I wear a mask, and stay home as much as I can. This time in history is an incredible opportunity to share Christ's love in ways we never have before and in ways that feel upside-down by being innovative in online church and wearing masks. For such a time as this! What if we in the church led the way?"

Proactive measures by individuals and churches can have a tremendous impact on the spread of the virus, Smith shared. With the dramatic increases in cases throughout Texas, Smith advises heeding caution of meeting in-person, particularly with the high positivity rates and increases in hospitalizations. **If a church were to meet in-person in the next few weeks, Smith suggests moving the gathering outdoors, under a tent, and following physical distancing measures as well as encouraging all participants to wear masks.** (*"Wearing a mask and physical distancing can reduce a person's risk to a mere 5%. That's a strong protective measure!" But you also have to do it with social distancing.*)

With those expert opinions in mind and much prayer, discussion with the staff and elder body, and reviewing the recent survey results, I present to you the First Baptist Belton Physical Re-Engagement Plan. This outlines our desire to move forward and the protocols we will be following for the foreseeable future. We have not put dates on each phase and we may have to move back and forth between phases based on the current COVID activity in our area.

Thank you, church, for continuing to be the Church. You continue to encourage, continue to give, and continue to maintain your spiritual disciplines in this time of physical separation. I miss you and am thrilled to get to see you again soon. For those of you who still need to be cautious, you are daily in my prayers also. I love you all.

Andy Davis

Senior Pastor

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5: 13-14



Physical Re-Engagement Plan

The purpose of this document is to clearly communicate the phases of physical re-engagement during the current COVID-19 Pandemic. We are learning and reserve the right to modify this document at any time and without notice, although we will do everything we can to communicate changes.

Overview

Each phase listed is derived from a compilation of advice from our members who are healthcare professionals, our local and state government, and most importantly prayerful consideration by our ministers, staff, and elders. We embrace our added responsibility as pastors and church leaders to care for our church family as well as those affected in our community.

- We will operate at a pace “behind” (more cautious than) the general community.
- We will respect both the vulnerable population and those hurting economically.
- We will consider the school district schedule in regard to in-person children’s and youth activities and facility closures during the school year with regard to COVID-19.
- We will likely move back and forth between these phases through the fall and winter.

Centralized Communication is critical.

- Know how to access the church website at fcbelton.org.
- Download the **Realm Connect** mobile app and enable notifications. The app is available for free download on The App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) by searching “*Realm Connect*.” We will also push e-mail and text notifications out through the information on Realm, so check your profile to be sure your contact information is correct!
- Like our Facebook page at facebook.com/fcbelton .

Definitions and Protocols:

- **Vulnerable Population:** Elderly individuals and/or those with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, pregnancy, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.
- [New Standard Protocol - Page 5](#)
- [Cleaning & Disinfecting Protocol - Page 6](#)



PHASE 1

Phase 1 operations have the strictest requirements due to the concern of the spread of the virus, where we have the most responsibility of doing our part to maintain physical distancing and masking. No indoor gathering of the congregation is authorized, except for those involved in the production of church services and recording special communications to the church family.

During this phase, the following will be in place:

- **Worship Services** - Outside and online only (*see our [website](#) for viewing options*)
- **Ministry Activities** - Outside and online only (*see our [website](#) and each ministry's social media posts for options*)
- **Sunday School** - Digital only (*see our [website](#) for options and access*)
- **Small Group Meetings (< 12)** – Outside or online only
- **Worship Choir, Orchestra, and Praise Team** – In-person rehearsals with masking and social distancing MAY be allowed.
- **Church Office** – Open regular hours for appointments and quick visits/tasks and deliveries
- **Events** - Outdoors or digital only
- **Prayer Room** – Open with new protocols (*every-other-hour schedule to alternate weeks for those that desire to participate*)
- **ALL First Baptist Ministry Gatherings (including outdoor)** – **masks required**
- **Church Weekday Ministry** – Opening with strict/independent procedures in place for students and staff
- **Providence Preparatory School** – Staff only in the building
- **Vulnerable Population** – Outdoor and digital only recommended

PHASE 2

Achieving Phase 2 Operations allows for the lightening of restrictions towards gathering sizes and will allow for groups to meet in person and indoors. Sunday school will begin to meet in person as well as approved onsite and off-site events.

During this phase, the following will be in place:

- **Worship Services** - Inside but distanced/masked and digital
- **Ministry Activities** – Inside or outside, but may have some new protocols
- **Sunday School** - Digital and in-person options will be available
- **Church Office and Prayer Room** – Open with continued Phase I guidance
- **Small Group and Committee Meetings** – Inside available with masks/distancing
- **Worship Choir, Orchestra, and Praise Team** – Should be able to meet and perform in-person with new protocols.
- **Events** – Inside and outside with certain protocols
- **Church Weekday and Providence Preparatory School** – Open with independent/strict procedures
- **Vulnerable Population** – Prayerfully make your own informed decision but may proceed with caution to distanced/masked events



PHASE 3

Phase 3 is the new steady state for resuming regular operations - keeping protective measures in place but allowing for the return of our vulnerable population members and lifting certain protocols set forth in the previous phases.

During this phase, the following will be in place:

- **All Phase 2 Options**
- **Age Group Choirs** – Should be able to meet and perform in-person with new protocols
- **Sunday School** - In-person with new protocols
- **Weekly Bible Studies** – In-person with new protocols
- **Events** – On site and off-site activities resume, possible new protocols
- **Vulnerable Population** – To your comfort level

NEW STANDARD PROTOCOLS

Before You Come

- Be sure no one in your household has a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater, or other possible symptoms of COVID-19. [See appendix.](#)
- Please use the restroom before attending. *(The restrooms will be available for indoor events and will be frequently cleaned, but this will help cut down extra traffic.)*

Wash Your Hands Frequently

- Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hand washing is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Avoid Touching Eyes, Nose, and Mouth

- Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus through your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Practice Respiratory Hygiene

- Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your mask, bent elbow, or a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and then disposing of the tissue properly and sanitizing hands.
- We may require wearing a mask before, during, and after services and any time in the building, especially during Phases 1 and 2. Staff members will be required to wear face coverings for the foreseeable future.

Maintain Physical Distancing

- Maintain at least six feet of distance between yourself and others not in your household. This includes entering, exiting, and while in the building. Minimize direct physical contact with others. Please note that distancing is applicable for ANYONE that is not in your IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD. Please wave or find other creative ways to greet people and do not hug, shake hands, or fist bump.

Stay Home If You Feel Unwell

- If you have a fever, cough, and/or difficulty breathing, please stay home and seek medical care as needed.



APPENDIX

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Are you or someone in your family experiencing any of these symptoms?

- A fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Shortness of breath
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Body aches or cramps
- Red Eyes
- Rash
- Any other flu-like symptoms

If so, we ask that you and your family enjoy the First Baptist Belton services at home digitally, and not in person until you are cleared to return.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PROTOCOL

Our Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocol will be implemented in Phase 1 and all subsequent phases until such time as no longer merited. We are adhering to the strictest measures to ensure our most vulnerable population members are protected.

Entrances, Common Areas, and Restrooms

- All touch surface areas at designated entrance(s), commons areas, and restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected before, between and after events and services.
- All areas will have the air cleaned by disinfecting safe-to-touch fogging spray between and after events and services.

Operations Team

- Our operations staff has been trained on the current standard of cleaning and disinfecting.
- Areas used will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected before, between, and after events and services.

Children's Activities and Area

- All toys and games will be cleaned before, between, and after services using EPA-approved and child-safe cleaning solutions.
- All children's classrooms will be disinfected using safe-to-touch fogging spray.

Worship

- The worship center will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected using new, safe-to-touch fogging spray between and after events and services. This includes all pews and touch surfaces.
- Sanitizer stations installed in the common areas. People are encouraged to carry their own pocket-sized sanitizer containers also.



Disinfecting Equipment and Products

How Does Electrostatic Disinfection Work?

- Electrostatic spray is electrically charged, allowing the appropriate sanitizers, mold preventatives, and disinfectants to wrap around and evenly coat all types of surfaces for a more complete clean. As the chemical exits the electrostatic sprayer, it's given a positive electrical charge. The droplets then become attracted to all negative surfaces, covering the visible area, underside, and back side, with the sanitizing agent. Surfaces that are already covered will repel the spray, making the method extremely efficient.

Vital Oxide Disinfectant

- Effectiveness on Viruses – Environmental Protection Agency approved for use against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19).
- Use in High Traffic Areas - EPA-registered hospital disinfectant with lowest toxicity category—gentle enough for daily disinfecting and sanitizing.
- Food Safety – Sanitizes 99.999% of food contact surfaces with no rinse required.
- Effect on Environment – No volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

