



RETURN TO CHURCH

Plan & Policies

WE BELIEVE CHURCH IS ESSENTIAL!

The following pages will outline our plan to reopen in phases. Let's work together to make this happen for the glory of God!

Matthew 22:39

As we attempt to get back to "normal services", let us endeavor to have the spirit of "Matthew 22:39: "...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." All that follows in this hand out will only work if we put others ahead of ourselves.

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH

RETURN TO CHURCH Plan and Policies

www.LogCabinChurch.net

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Introduction

Note: This is still a work in progress and will change in the days and weeks to come.

For the past few months, while we have been concerned for religious liberty, we have nevertheless followed the guidance of our government for the safety of others. Out of concern for our people, we voluntarily transitioned to online church services in order to practice social distancing during the COVID-19 breakout. Matt 22:39.

Now, as our President is urging cautious return to in-person church, we feel a stirring from God to prepare adequately and safely for the slow and safe return to in-person worship. We have sought legal and medical counsel, as well as consultation with our elected officials in making this plan. Mostly, we are sensitive to the leading of the Lord in the process.

The following pages will outline our plan in phases. (Phasing will be explained in Section Four). We all need to study and prepare for the issue in context of our individual and family circumstances. It is imperative that LBC return with proper patience, understanding, and biblical conviction. Church members and workers are urged to read this document in order to participate in upcoming services.

We all desire safety as instructed by government leaders (Romans 13), and we desire to obey the command of Scripture to assemble and worship (Hebrews 10:25).

We believe church is essential! Let's work together to make this happen for the glory of God and with a right testimony to those who have not yet trusted Christ as Saviour.

Pastor Brian Blount

SECTION ONE**Regarding Senior Citizens/Those with Underlying Health Conditions/ Primary Caregivers for People with Underlying Conditions**

We are concerned about our valuable Senior Citizens and would love for them to be in our services. But due to the dangers related to COVID-19, we are recommending all members age 65 and older and members of all ages who have underlying health conditions such as breathing conditions, cancer treatments, suppressed immune systems, etc, to please stay home and continue worshipping via livestream or come sit in your car in the parking lot and listen to the service broadcasted on FM 87.9 during Phase 1 of our return. (Phasing will be explained in Section Four).

It may be necessary for those folks to stay away from “crowds” longer than Phase 1, however, we must start with this safety measure.

Who Is at Risk?

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including but not limited to:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised

Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications

- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

If we become aware that someone who has been in a service becomes ill, we will follow these procedures:

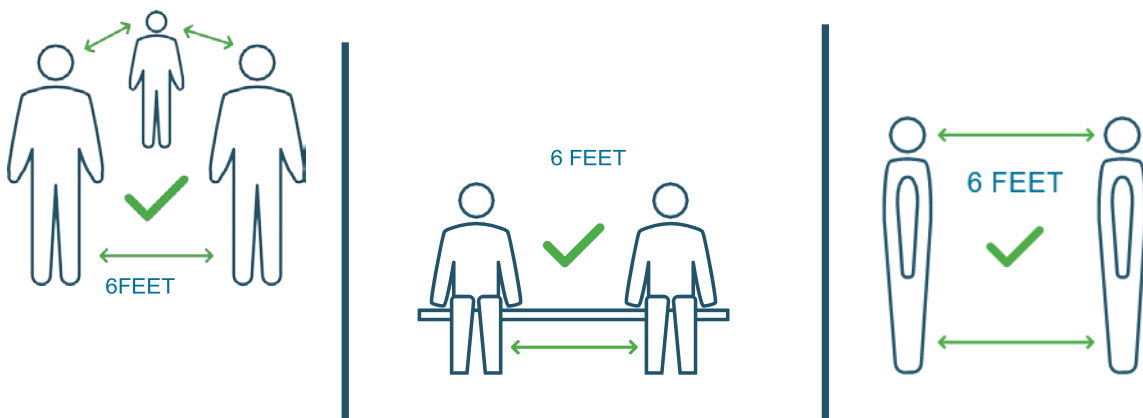
- We will ask the person to stay home and seek medical care if needed.
Persons should stay at home for at least seven days after symptoms started AND three days after symptoms are improved and fever resolves without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- If person is found ill with COVID, we will contact local health officials.
- If public health officials determine we need to, we will assist with determining who needs to be contacted.

Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website, April 2020

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

SECTION TWO
Social Distancing

6 FEET SOCIAL DISTANCING



Signs will be posted around our church campus and shall be observed by members and guests on return to church campus.

No one should plan to attend services who is known to have had any contact with known COVID-19 confirmed case.

Members are asked to wear a mask until further notice and to maintain six feet of distance when speaking to one another. (Masks have been purchased by Lighthouse Baptist Church and are available for those who have forgotten to bring one.)

To simplify this process, the following practices shall be observed:

DO

- ✓ Wear a mask (ages 5 and up)
- ✓ Wash your hands before and after services
- ✓ Stay six feet from others
- ✓ Cover your coughs or sneezes
- ✓ Visit hand sanitizer stations frequently
- ✓ Be willing to have your temperature taken
- ✓ Sign a waiver releasing church from liability if you get sick

DON'T

- × Shake hands
- × Hug others
- × Come to church if you are sick
- × Touch your face, nose, and mouth
- × Leave trash in the gymnasium

What to Expect

With the help of our volunteers, we have set in place these distancing policies:

- Out of concern for each other, please wear a mask. Please bring one, but if you forget, they will be available at the door
- Ushers & Greeters will wear masks and will also wear gloves if passing out or collecting materials.
- Please maintain social distancing of six feet while on church property.
- Entrance doors will be propped open to avoid the touching of door handles.
- Ushers will seat you before the services. Families will sit together.
- We will sit staggered in the rows in an alternate seating pattern to ensure social distancing. Distancing will be kept in all directions—front, back, left, and right.
- At the end of the services, ushers will dismiss you in a controlled orderly manner maintaining social distancing. Please do not block exits or doorways while exiting.
- Offering plates will not be passed during the services. Secure receptacles will be available in the gymnasium for you to drop your offering, or you are encouraged to use online giving.
- We will not be distributing a service bulletin. We will email bulletin announcements to the church family on Fridays.
- No coffee or food will be shared on campus.
- Playgrounds on the property will be closed.
- The lobby area as well as the nursery and certain classrooms will be inaccessible in Phases 1 and 2.

Invitation/Altar Call

- During phases 1 & 2, at the end of the Bible message, you will be encouraged to make decisions in their seat or speak privately with Pastor.

The Lord's Supper

- We will wait to observe the Lord's Table until we have a better sense of health needs. We will likely pre-distribute elements to each chair.

Children's Ministry

- No separate children's services will be available during Phase 1 and 2. The nursery will open during Phase 2. Three classrooms will be open in the gymnasium that parents may use as a cry room if needed. Only one room per family, please.
- During Phase 2 of opening the nursery, only workers will operate the check in system.
- We will require parents to stand six feet apart during pick up and drop off while observing social distancing lines marked on the ground outside of nursery.
- The forehead of children will be scanned for temperature with infrared contactless thermometers upon entrance into the building. If your child has a fever, you will be asked to take him home and watch the services online.
- If your child has had a fever in the last 24 hours, please keep him at home for the well-being of workers and other children.
- If child becomes ill during the service, you will be called immediately, and the child will be moved to a designated pick up area.
- Snacks and drinks will not be provided by the Ministry for children.
- All workers will wear masks and gloves at all times.
- Children age 5 and older will be encouraged to wear a mask.
- Chairs and tables in each nursery/classroom will be configured for six-foot distancing.
- We will prevent the sharing of toys and materials among the children. We will have crayons in separate sealing storage bags. We will encourage children to play with toys individually with puzzles, blocks, coloring pages, etc. and not in groups.

SECTION THREE**The Sanitization of Our Facilities**

While Lighthouse Baptist has always maintained high quality standards of cleaning our facilities, many adjustments have been made in order to prevent illness from spreading in our common areas. We have purchased Mediclean Disinfectant Spray which continues to kill germs and bacteria for 24 hours. We want you to be aware of our practice going forward.

Facility Janitorial/Maintenance

- Only cleaning products provided by the ministry will be used. Approved cleaning products: like Mediclean, Lysol, and Clorox Wipes.

Doors/Surfaces

- Handles to all entry/exit doors are being disinfected before and after each service.
- Handles to all restroom and closet doors are being disinfected before and after each service.
- Counters, tables, and chairs are being disinfected before and after each service.
- Drinking fountains will be turned off and unavailable until further notice.
- Sanitizer stations are cleaned, checked for functionality, and refilled before and after each service.
- Light switches are disinfected before and after every service.
- Facial tissue will be available in the restrooms.
- Please use the Clorox Wipes available in the restrooms to wipe down the surfaces you encountered.

Restrooms

- Toilets, urinals, and sinks will be disinfected before and after every service.
- Counters and surfaces will be disinfected before and after every service.

Gymnasium/Auditorium

- During Phase 1, 2, and 3, the Gymnasium will be used for services
- Chairs and tables used are being disinfected before and after each service.
- After each service, we will remove all trash and left-over personal items from the gym.
- We are increasing ventilation as much as possible in the buildings. We use the highest quality air filters that are inspected regularly and replaced every six weeks.
- During Phase 3, the Auditorium and Lobby area will be opened for services.
- Pews and surfaces will be wiped down and sprayed before and after each service.

Nurseries and Children's Classrooms

- Nursery not available for use during Phase 1.
- Children's Classrooms not available for use during Phase 1 and 2.
- Starting with opening Phases, all toys, chairs, counters, and tables will be cleaned with Lysol wipes before and after each service.
- Nurseries will be disinfected before and after each service.

SECTION FOUR Schedule of Our Services

We anticipate rolling out our services in incremental steps as guidance is received.

Please familiarize yourself the following four phases. Announcements will be given using these terms, Phases 1–4.

In the event of resurgence of COVID-19, or another pandemic, we will use similar philosophy going forward.

Also, depending upon governmental and medical guidelines, we could skip a phase. Hence, learn the phase schedule and we will communicate as clearly and consistently as possible.

Phase ①

Date: June 7, 2020

Sunday Morning Schedule

Morning Worship Service—11am

- Services are for all, and all children shall sit with their parent(s). Each family will be separated. Ushers will alternate seating patterns to ensure social distancing.
- Special music will be provided by ensembles.

Sunday Evening Service Schedule – 6pm

- Sunday evening services will be online through Zoom for each Adult Small Group.

Wednesday Evening Schedule – 7pm

- Bible Study will be broadcasted online at 7 pm.

Phase ②

Date: TBD

Note: We may be able to go directly to Phase 3.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Morning Worship Service—11am

- * **Services are for all, and all children ages 4 and up shall sit with their parent(s). Children under 4 years of age will be able to go to their prospective classrooms (nursery). Then the family will be seated in gym. Ushers will alternate seating patterns to ensure social distancing.**
- Special music will be provided by ensembles.
- * **Nursery for ages 0–3 years will be provided in social distanced groups.**

Sunday Evening Service Schedule – 6pm

- Sunday evening services will be online through Zoom for each Adult Small Group.

Wednesday Evening Schedule – 7pm

- Bible Study will be broadcasted online at 7 pm.

Phase ③

Date: TBD

Note: Mask, gloves, and temperature check requirements may be lifted by this phase.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Morning Worship Service—11am

- **Services are for all, and all children ages 4th grade and up shall sit with their parent(s). Children under 3rd grade will be able to go to their prospective classrooms (nursery or other classrooms). Then the family will be seated in gym. Ushers will alternate seating patterns to ensure social distancing.**
- Special music will be provided by ensembles.
- Nursery for ages 0–3 years will be provided in social distanced groups.
- * **Junior church (ages 4 – 3rd grade) and I Am Special Ministry will be provided in social distanced groups.**

Sunday Evening Service Schedule – 6pm

- * **Adult Small Groups will open with ensured social distancing.**
- * **The Youth Group will begin meeting in social distanced groups.**
- * **Children’s Sunday School classes will begin in social distanced groups.**
- * **Nursery for ages 0 – 3 years will be provided in social distanced groups**

Wednesday Evening Schedule – 7pm

- Bible Study will be broadcasted online at 7 pm.

Phase 4

Date: TBD

Note: During this phase:

The Bus Ministry can resume.

Promotion to the next grade will take place for children ages K–12th grade

Those with underlying conditions may return under medical advisement.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Christianity 101 – 10 am

- * **Adult Bible Study group will meet and seated in alternate patterns to ensure social distancing.**
- * **The Youth Group will begin meeting in social distanced groups.**
- * **Kids Clubs will begin in social distanced groups.**
- * **Nursery for ages 0 – 3 years will be provided in social distanced groups**

Morning Worship Service—11am

- Services are for all, and all children ages 4th grade and up shall sit with their parent(s). Each family will be separated. Ushers will alternate seating patterns to ensure social distancing.
- * **The choir may resume but may be split and will observe social distancing.**
- Nursery for ages 0–3 years will be provided in social distanced groups.
- Junior church (ages 4 – 3rd grade) and I Am Special Ministry will be provided in social distanced groups.

Sunday Evening Service Schedule – 6pm

- Adult Small Groups will meet with ensured social distancing.
- The Youth Group will meet in social distanced groups.
- Children’s Sunday School classes will continue in social distanced groups.
- Nursery for ages 0 – 3 years will be provided in social distanced groups

Wednesday Evening Schedule – 7pm

- * **Services are for all, and all children ages 4 yrs and up shall sit with their parent(s). Each family will be separated. Ushers will alternate seating patterns to ensure social distancing.**
- * **Nursery for ages 0–3 years will be provided in social distanced groups.**

Appendix

Resources

1. "COVID-19 Suggested Church Reopening Guidelines," Christian Law Association, Dr. David Gibbs
2. "Guidelines for Opening Up America Again," prepared by the White House and CDC, April 2020
3. Interim Guidance for Administrators and Leaders of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>, April 2020
4. Return to church plan and policies from Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster, CA

Lighthouse Baptist Church

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**Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to
Coronavirus/COVID-19 and Attendance at Lighthouse Baptist Church**

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people. Lighthouse Baptist Church of Ludington (“the Church”) has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Having been made aware of those measures you believe they are reasonable to protect you and your children; however, the Church cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, attending the Church may increase your risk and your child(ren)’s risk of contracting COVID-19. By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that my child(ren) and I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending the Church and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at the Church may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, Church employees, volunteers, and program participants and their families. I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child(ren) or myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I or my child(ren) may experience or incur in connection with attendance at the Church or participation in Church programs (“Claims”). On my behalf, and on behalf of my children, I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless the Church, its employees, agents, volunteers, and representatives, of and from the Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto. I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the Church, its employees, agents, volunteers and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation or attendance at any Church service or activity. This assumption and waiver will continue in effect during my lifetime and thereafter, and shall be binding on my heirs and assigns and all those that may make claims in their own capacity or on my behalf, including any power of attorney and upon my Estate or personal representative.

Dated

Signature

Dated

Signature