



RE-GATHERING GUIDE FOR

Louisiana Baptists

Phase II

The following contains state guidelines

for the continued re-gathering of congregations as well as additional ideas for your consideration. These have been compiled by Louisiana Baptists' Mission Services staff and are effective beginning June 6. For additional information visit www.gov.la.gov or www.opensafely.la.gov.

These guidelines will be in effect for 21 days through June 26, 2020.

General Considerations:

- The move to Phase 2 is the next measured step toward normal operation. Churches may hold services at 50% occupancy using six foot social distancing and the wearing of masks.
- Although you are permitted to start Phase 2 operations on June 6, decisions should be based on your local congregation's context.
- Your church's decision should be made in conjunction with key church leaders, members who can give valuable insight, and be consistent with federal, state, and local government guidelines.
- High risk members are encouraged to continue worshiping remotely or, churches might consider a separate worship time exclusively for these members.

Preparations:

- Communicate Phase 2 plan to the church.
- Adequately clean and sanitize the entire facility.
- Identify health guidelines for all in attendance.
- Gather/acquire hand sanitizer and dispensers.
- Consider providing facemasks for attendees.
- Arrange or mark off your facility to comply with occupancy limits and social distancing. Pre-registration may be helpful as part of this phase.
- Other venue alternatives (drive-in, outdoor lawn) as well as live-streaming should be considered as needed.
- If holding multiple live services, consider a rotation of members by last name. Again, a pre-registration process may be helpful.
- Remove items that might encourage unintentional crowding (extra seating, tables, Café area, self-serve coffee stations).
- Continue online services for those unable to attend a live service.

Services/Worship:

- Consider not restarting nursery, children's church, or small groups until social distance and sanitation requirements can be maintained.
- Communicate to staff and volunteers the plan for their areas. Address things that have changed from their normal routine.
- Limit handouts and eliminate as many points of contact as possible (bulletins, sermon notes, hymnals, coffee stations, greeters).
- Display signage discouraging greetings that require physical touch.
- Identify doors that can remain propped open to limit touching handles.
- Plan how you will clean common areas between services
- Consider shorter service lengths.
- Keep in mind the presence of young children when planning your services.
- Consider alternative ways for people to give their tithes and offerings as well as ways they can respond to a public invitation.
- Baptisms should be conducted in ways that protect the person being baptized as well as the pastor/minister doing the baptism.

Exiting Worship:

- Address questions relating to other group meetings. (When will youth group start back? Should Sunday School/small groups meet?)
- Stagger dismissal of the congregation to minimize crowding.
- Remind congregants to use hand sanitizer on exit.