

ROAD MAP TO RE-ENTRY:

QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS AS YOU PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

As your church or ministry looks forward to resuming in-person operations and worship, now is the time to carefully plan for a safe and effective re-entry.

To help you navigate this new unknown, GuideStone® has compiled a list of questions for your consideration as your ministry creates a plan adhering to the "Opening Up America Again Guidelines", a three-phased approach unveiled by President Trump based on the advice of public health experts.

However, please keep in mind these precautions may change depending on direction given by federal, state or local authorities.

PHASE 1:

According to the "Opening Up America Again Guidelines", ministries can reopen with operations continuing under **strict** social distancing. Schools and camps should remain closed, and visits to senior living facilities and hospitals should be prohibited.

PHASE 2:

According to the "Opening Up America Again Guidelines", ministries can reopen with operations continuing under **moderate** social distancing. Schools and camps can reopen; however, visits to senior living facilities and hospitals should remain prohibited.

PHASE 3:

According to the "Opening Up America Again Guidelines", ministries can reopen with operations continuing under **limited** social distancing. Senior living facilities and hospitals may allow visitors.

Here are questions to consider as you navigate the various stages of re-entry:

HYGIENE PRACTICES:

- Are we visibly doing things that help people see cleanliness (e.g., putting out hand sanitizer stations, having staff/volunteers wipe surfaces while people are around, etc.)?
- Will we require the use of a cloth face covering at all gatherings?
- Will we post signs in our facility on how to stop the spread of COVID-19?

CLEANING & DISINFECTION:

- Have we done a deep clean and disinfection of our facility?
- How often are we going to clean and disinfect our facility in the future?
- Have we checked that our ventilation systems operate properly?
- Have we updated our infectious disease plan?

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- Will we allow groups to meet if they are in accordance with the size guidelines and directives of our state and local authorities and adhering to social distancing measures (e.g., masks, hand sanitizer, avoid touching of face, etc.)?
- Do we have a schedule outlining phases for when employees can return to the office?
- Will we need to adjust service times to accommodate building sanitation between services?
- Will we need to add a service time to allow for six feet of social distancing?
- When will we allow children's activities and childcare to resume?
- Will we stop doing a greeting time (if applicable)?
- Will we stop having a choir or music ensemble (if applicable)?

COMMUNITY SHARING MATERIALS:

- Will we stop the Lord's Supper during this time or use prefilled all-in-one communion cups?
- Will we stop passing the offering buckets/plates (if applicable)?
- Will we stop distributing frequently touched items like bulletins/programs or hymnals (if applicable)?
- Do we refrain from offering coffee or other treats during this time (if applicable)?

TRAINING:

- How will we train our staff on updated safety protocols?

MONITORING AND PREPARING:

- How will you gauge or survey the comfort level of your congregation regarding resuming in-person worship or activities?
- What accommodations will you consider for vulnerable individuals (elderly and those with underlying health conditions)?
- What are our procedures if someone contracts COVID-19 at our facility?
- If someone is diagnosed with COVID-19 and has been in our facility, how will we communicate to our staff, volunteers and congregation?
- How are we communicating to staff, volunteers and congregation the actions being taken to protect their health?

While it will take time to return to normal, it will still be a new normal for most ministries. Be proactive now in your planning so that you can mitigate future risks for your ministry.

You know your ministry best, but don't forget to coordinate with state and local authorities to ensure a safe return.



Find more information on "Opening Up America Again Guidelines":

[WhiteHouse.gov/OpeningAmerica/#Guidelines](https://www.whitehouse.gov/OpeningAmerica/#Guidelines)

For full CDC guidance regarding faith-based organizations, check out:

[CDC.gov/Coronavirus/2019-NCOV/Community/Organizations/Index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus/2019-NCOV/Community/Organizations/Index.html)

Check out additional ministry resources from GuideStone to help you through the COVID-19 pandemic:

[GuideStone.org/COVID-19-Resources](https://www.guidestone.org/COVID-19-Resources)