

SAMPLE FIVE-STEP RE-ENTRY PLAN

[Church or Ministry Name] looks forward to returning to in-person operations and worship, but we also recognize the need to follow a “step-up” philosophy — making thoughtful and gradual changes — until we are back to normal.

Our current five-step plan utilizes the recommendations given by national, state and local officials. As their recommendations change, our plan may change, too. If changes occur, we will communicate them with the church body.

We will make decisions on when to move to the next step based on recommendations from local officials and with input from our COVID-19 Advisory Board made up of [Church or Ministry Name] members who are part of the medical, civil and legal fields.

STEP ONE: ONLINE WORSHIP

Under the “Stay Home, Work Safe” order, citizens are recommended to limit activity and stay at home. During this step, we will employ:

- Online worship services
- Online Bible studies and groups

STEP TWO: SMALL GROUPS

As restrictions are loosened, current White House guidelines indicate groups of 10 or fewer in number will be recommended. During this phase, we will employ:

- Online worship services
- Online Bible studies and groups

If smaller groups decide to meet in-person, we ask they use all recommended guidelines given by officials (e.g., staying six feet away, wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, avoid touching of face, etc.).

STEP THREE: MEDIUM GROUPS

If COVID-19 cases decrease, current White House guidelines indicate groups of 50 or fewer in number will be recommended at this point. During this phase, we will employ:

- Online worship services
- Online Bible studies and groups
- A plan in which groups of 50 or fewer in number can use [Church or Ministry Name] campus facilities
- Staggered group meetings so that facilities can be sanitized between each group meeting
- Social distancing for each group meeting, along with other recommended precautions given by officials at the time (e.g., staying six feet away, wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, avoid touching of face, etc.)
- No children’s activities or childcare due to the difficulty of employing social distancing



STEP FOUR: FAMILY WORSHIP

When it is deemed safe by local officials, we will resume worship services on campus employing social distancing. This will likely require us to cap attendance to each service at _____ people (as determined by facility size). During this phase, we will employ:

- Online worship services and/or worship services on campus that follow social distancing
- Online Bible studies and groups and/or group meetings that follow social distancing
- Guidelines for groups of 50 or fewer, as outlined above in Step Three
- Online worship reservations in order to properly gauge interest
- Staggered service times to allow the building to be sanitized between each service
- Adjusted offering collection and the Lord's Supper appropriately
- No coffee or refreshments
- Touch-free environments where possible (e.g., doors propped open, greeters wave "hi" instead of using handshakes or hugs, etc.)
- Asking volunteers to wear gloves and masks
- No children's activities or childcare due to the difficulty of employing social distancing

STEP FIVE: NEW NORMAL

As comfort and safety increase, we will resume more regular activities in addition to our worship services. At this time, it is difficult to predict what this new normal may include, but we anticipate things like:

- Continuing online worship services as needed
- Continuing online Bible studies and groups as needed
- A return to "normal" programming using recommended safety guidelines
- A return of children's activities and childcare
- A return of coffee and refreshments

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