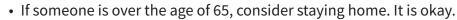
# <u>CHURCH</u>

The earliest the City of Hattiesburg recommends resuming corporate services is May 31, 2020. However, many congregations are choosing to wait until June or July, and those decisions are welcome.

## KEY MESSAGES FOR YOUR CONGREGATION



- If someone is considered "at risk" because of an underlying or chronic health condition, it is okay to stay home.
- Ask members of your community to stay at home if they are symptomatic, have fever, been in close contact with someone who has tested positive or has traveled to a hot spot in the past two (2) weeks.
- Put the needs of others above any slight inconvenience, whether it's wearing a mask, waiting to be seated or sitting in a place other than your normal spot.
- Be flexible.
- Communicate with members of your faith community about the steps being taken to prepare the house of worship for their arrival and ways that in-person gathering will be different. Remind them social distancing protocols and face coverings will be enforced.

#### **GUIDELINES ON CAPACITY**

- Consider strongly encouraging the use of face coverings by all persons in the house of worship.
- Consider having a supply of face coverings available at each entrance.
- Consider the square footage and layout of your house of worship and determine a number of people that would be conducive to social distancing guidelines.

#### STAFF + ATTENDEE PROTECTION



- Consider strongly requiring the use of face coverings by all persons in the house of worship.
- Consider having a supply of face coverings available at each entrance.

### PROCESSES: BEFORE ENTERING THE SANCTUARY/WORSHIP CENTER

- Consider parking parishioners every other space.
- Keep people/families separated as they enter the building.
- Ensure everyone has a face covering before they enter the building.
- Have hand sanitizer at each entrance and exit.
- Space people out 12' is recommended outside the sanctuary as they wait to enter the sanctuary.

#### **PROCESSES: ENTERING AND EXITING**



- Seat people/families one at a time from front to back, by section.
- Keep six (6) feet of space between people/families in all directions. This means skipping chairs and/or rows of pews, depending on the style of seating in your worship center.
- Remind parishioners that masks are to be worn during the service.
- Organize a way of ushering parishioners out after the service back to front to avoid attendees passing each other.
- Designate controlled points of entry and exit from the sanctuary/worship center. Ask the community to enter and exit immediately to their own vehicles to maintain social distancing and not gather in groups.

#### OTHER GUIDELINES TO KEEP YOUR STAFF AND CONGREGATION SAFE



- Close coffee or refreshment areas until further notice.
- Close common areas outside the sanctuary to discourage group gathering and proper social distancing measures are enforced.
- Consider adopting a phased approach to resuming in-person gatherings.
- Communicate with vulnerable populations and families requiring child care during the service. Encourage them to delay their return for several weeks.
- Continue virtual services.
- Consider hosting a separate worship service for vulnerable populations.
- Consider solutions to minimize close contact that may be a part of your service, such as handshakes or sharing food and drink.
- Delay resumption of children's activities and nursery programs.
- Consider broadcasting the service to other rooms in the facility to allow proper social distancing.
- Avoid passing a plate or cup and modify distribution protocols if your tradition involved shared drink or food.
- Delay the start of Sunday School, Sabbath School or other religious classes.
- Make announcements verbally or by using social media, email or direct mail instead of passing out pamphlets or bulletins at the door.
- Prop doors open to minimize multiple contacts.
- Deep clean before opening.
- Sanitize all high traffic areas including but not limited to: restrooms, doorknobs, counters, microphones, arm rests, booklets, etc.
- Sanitize shared resources after each use and between services.
- Ensure flow of fresh air and that ventilation systems are operating properly. Cleaning of HVAC intake and return is recommended.
- Restrooms should be cleaned and sanitized daily. Disposable paper towels are recommended and air dryers should be deactivated.
- Give careful attention to preschool and children's areas. Consider removing nonessential items to minimize high contact surfaces. Sanitize areas between use.

