

CBCGB Church Reopening Town Hall Q&A
September 13, 2020

Facilities

Have all air ventilation systems inspected?

The air ventilation systems filters were inspected and replaced with Glasfloss/MERV-13 which can block particles with the size of 0.3-1.0 microns and are used in hospitals.

Is there a protocol ready for deep cleaning and thorough disinfection?

What is the plan for cleaning restrooms more frequently?

Will there be cleaning between the Chinese and CB service?

The entire church is cleaned once a month and we have a separate cleaning service that cleans the two bathrooms on the second floor of the main building and the church office building every two weeks. In addition, we call them for on demand cleaning after events particularly for the bathrooms used.

As for cleaning between CM and CB services, in later phases we will be looking into how services and service times need to change in order to accommodate cleaning.

Will disinfecting wipes and sanitizing solutions be more available, especially in classrooms, restrooms, and entrances?

There are already sanitizing stations in different parts of the church with wipes and hand sanitizer. There will be supplies in the classrooms when we start using them again.

Will the bathrooms on all floors of the main church building be available for use?

During Phase 1, only the bathrooms on the second floor (the floor where the sanctuary and chapel are located) will be open, because only those using the church main/upper parking lots and/or attending special events will need bathroom access. The other bathrooms will be opened as the church building is slowly re-opened across future phases.

Will there some sort of setup (e.g. canopy) to make small group outdoor fellowship meetings more manageable as the weather changes?

Currently there are some small canopies that are available for use. Event hosts will need to sign out the canopies and set up and put them away when they are done using them.

Will the seats be numbered if the church reopens?

City Outreach Ministry is currently in the process of piloting what a hybrid worship service with limited in-person attendance will look like logistically. As they go through their pilot process, we will learn more about best practices and seek to adopt them once we start hybrid worship services in the Lexington compass. Please stay tuned to what these guidelines will look like once we enter these phases of the church reopening process.

Reopening Guidelines

Are there procedures that people can follow before coming to church? For example, checking on people's temperature, etc.

Will we measure people's temperature before letting them into the church?

We currently require all the event attendees to fill out a symptom attest form on the date of the event per household unit. The list of the attestation symptoms includes a temperature > 100°F, which effectively requires the attendees to check their temperature at home. We currently do not require checking temperature on site because that would increase opportunities of close contact on site and we will continue to evaluate pros and cons of this precaution measure.

What has been done to facilitate contact tracing?

In the symptom attest form that is required to be filled out for every attendee, we require the attendee to fill in their email for contact tracing and the event coordinator is responsible to ensure we have contact info for all the attendees.

For the outdoor events, is the expectation that the coordinator will ensure that everyone attending has filled out the form?

Yes, each event coordinator is responsible so that we can do **contact** tracing if necessary.

What are the rules of wearing masks inside and outside the church?

For outdoor events, we are asking that all people strive to wear masks at all times. We recognize that this may not be possible at all times (e.g. when eating and/or when in need of a mask break), but we ask that people seek to wear a mask as much as possible. We are absolutely requiring that everyone wear a mask whenever they have potential of being within 6 feet of someone not in their immediate family.

For indoor special events in the sanctuary, we are currently requiring people to wear masks. The one exception to this is for musical worship team members who are singing --- for these specific people, when singing for a recording or live-streamed event, they are permitted to take off their masks but must remain at least 12 feet apart from anyone else.

Do children need to wear a mask in church?

Children who attend events at church with their parents are encouraged to wear masks. The church will follow [current CDC guidelines](#) which indicate that children 2 years of age and older should wear masks where possible.

What happens if a person refuses to wear a mask in church?

We are the body of Christ and we hope that in accordance with seeking to walk in unity of purpose and spirit with one another that church members would abide by the guidelines which have been set out even if they personally disagree with their efficacy.

These are trying and uncertain times, and there are many competing values and information sources which have sown a lot of discord and divisiveness in our society. However, we pray that God would allow us to grow in unity with one another even as we are one with Christ so that our unity and love for one another would be a testimony to the world.

Can people eat together during the small group outdoor fellowship?

According to our facility reopening guidelines, having food during an outdoor event is allowed, provided people not from the same household are 6-feet apart. Also, please do not share food, plates, glasses, cups, or utensils. Those items must be single-use or sanitized before/after use. Pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee are recommended.

Will contact tracing information be shared with the state government?

Only if we are required by the state government in the event of having confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Other questions

What criteria(s) will need to be met for the start of phase 2 and 3?

There is currently no fixed timeline, but we have a few principles for the timing of reopening as follows. The reopening pace at the church will be substantially slower than that of the MA government. After each of the key dates of the MA reopening (e.g. phase 3 reopening on July 6, opening public schools on September 16, etc), we will have a 6-week observation period for signs of resurgence. We will only further reopen our church in a phased fashion if there are no signs of resurgence based on the "7-Day Weighted Average of Positive Molecular Test Rate" and "3 Day Average of Number of COVID19 Patients in Hospital" reported daily on the MA website. During this observation period, we will also conduct a survey among the essential co-workers to ensure we have enough co-workers to hold the service on-site. Our principle is that we will not require anyone who does not feel comfortable going to church physically to do so, so we will only move forward with the reopening plan if we have enough co-workers who feel comfortable with the plan.

When should we resume church van ministry to pick up elderly brothers/sisters?

We care for our elderly brothers and sisters, and we recognize that they are particularly at-risk during this pandemic. Because of this, we are encouraging those who are at-risk to stay away from group in-person gatherings until Phase 4 when the church reopens fully. However, church pastors and elders are very cognizant of the mental, spiritual, and physical health needs of those who are in at-risk groups and their need for connectedness. Pastors and elders are seeking to find ways to minister to those who are at-risk and to support their spiritual and emotional well-being.

When the church re-opens, will the zoom meetings stop right away?

No --- while we are progressing through our phased reopening, we will be in a hybrid situation where not everyone will be able to attend meetings in-person, so Zoom meetings will continue.

Will we move children's worship or youth fellowship outdoors?

Youth: The answer is mostly no. The Friday night big group gatherings for the youth ministry will all be online this semester. If the whole big group from the youth ministry were to meet outside, we would be larger than double the max limit for even the state's limit on outdoor gatherings (first week total connections was 109). All Sunday school classes, and most small groups will also meet online this semester. However, there may be individual small groups that meet socially distanced in person and outside 1-3 times throughout the semester. Those small groups that would meet will be determined by the counselor and his/her comfort level, and the parents' and students' comfort levels. If parents or students have questions on if their small group will meet outside, they should contact their counselor, minister Taylor, or pastor Jen.

Children: No, and definitely not in the near future. In order to have the proper ratios we would likely exceed the number limits quickly when you add the coworkers, parents who may end up hanging around, etc. Also the weather is an issue; outdoor sessions for children only make sense during the summer.