



# Strategic Plan for Reopening

## Logistics:

**In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fifth Baptist Church has adopted the following appropriate measures in accordance with requirements from the State of Virginia and guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.**

### I. Services:

The guidelines below shall apply to all services including but not limited to: Sunday worship, funerals, weddings, Bible study, or other services held within the church campus.

- A. All attendees of a worship service must be seated in the sanctuary at least 15 minutes prior to the start of service.
- B. The maximum attendance has been established for all gathering areas including the sanctuary, choir stand, balcony, fellowship hall, choir room, and family life center.
- C. If attendance in the sanctuary and balcony reach capacity, then the overflow areas including the Fellowship Hall and Family Life Center will be used as necessary.
- D. Individuals attending services must be socially distanced by being seated **at least six feet** apart at all times. Family members (i.e. those who reside together in the same household), as defined in applicable orders from the State of Virginia, may be seated together.
- E. Every other pew has been blocked to minimize over-crowding and maintain social distancing. Signage has been erected to clearly mark available seating in six-foot increments.

### II. Proof of Vaccination/Facial Covering:

- A. Individuals attending religious services must provide **legal** proof of full immunization (**at least 2 Covid-19 vaccinations**) to designated staff, and have temperatures taken prior to entry into the worship area. Various forms of proof may be accepted including electronic.
- B. Hand-sanitizing stations and masks will also be available prior to entry into the worship area. **However, it is strongly recommended that attendees bring their own personal mask and hand-sanitizer.**
- C. Those individuals who present a counterfeit immunization card/record **will not be permitted to attend service** and will be asked to leave the premises by security.
- D. No individual will be permitted to attend religious services if they refuse to wear a mask or are experiencing any of the following signs/symptoms: cough, runny nose, cold or flu-like symptoms, chills, fever, **or have tested positive for COVID-19 within ten days prior to a service.**
- E. **In accordance with Executive Order 63:** Signage must be visible at the entrance to all indoor areas stating that individuals must wear a mask while in the facility.
- F. **Attendees must enter the facility with mask on, snugly covering the nose and mouth.**

### III. Participation in Worship:

- A. Masks must be worn during the worship service with the following exception. If an individual is asked to speak as part of the program, he/she may remove mask briefly if they are having difficulty speaking/breathing only. However, once speaking has concluded the mask must be placed back on (**covering the nose and mouth**).
- B. Facial shields or masks must be worn by individuals singing in the choir.
- C. All individuals who are speaking must approach the appropriate designated lectern and use the microphone provided. Microphones and lecterns must be sanitized appropriately after use.
- D. Service participants must remain on the floor while speaking, not entering the pulpit area or choir stand. Pastors can be contacted using the appropriate phones located near the front and rear of the church.

### IV. Tithes and Offerings:

- A. **Tithes and offerings can be given via established electronic means, dropped off at the Church office by a designated vaccinated individual during the week, mailed, or placed in designated secured boxes inside the sanctuary and outside the building.**

### V. Food/Drink:

- A. No outside food or drink will be allowed in the facility with the exception of donations provided by Rev. Earl & Ricardo Brown and holy sacrament which is prepared for communion. (Please refer to outlined policy regarding distribution of holy sacrament).
- B. All food items donated by the Pastors must be taken out of the building following a service and not eaten inside of the church.

### VI. Entry/Exit:

- A. Two main entry and exit points will be established for each main communal area. Entrance points will be different from exit points in order to minimize traffic and overflow. For example:
  - \*\* Sanctuary – **entrance** from Parkwood, exit on Cary Street.
  - \*\* Family Life Center – **entrance** sided parking lot near Parkwood, **exit** through Gym.
- B. Pastors must exit the sanctuary area after the benediction is given and instructions are given to dismiss. Dismissal of attendees will start from the last pew on the right.
- C. Ushers may assist with seating and dismissal of attendees from worship areas, as directed by the Pastors.
- D. Attendees shall not congregate in the back hallway, front foyer, balcony or any other areas before or after service. They must go directly into the sanctuary and be seated as appropriate to maintain social distancing.
- E. No individual is permitted to enter the office of the Pastor or Church Secretary unless they are vaccinated or have been invited.

### VII. Use of the Church Building

- A. Conduct thorough cleanings of a service area before, in-between, and after services.
- B. Assess quantity of sanitizing supplies and availability to secure additional supplies.
- C. Assess quantity and availability of personal protective equipment: masks, gloves, goggles and or face shields.
- D. Require that separate doors be used to enter and exit the church building when possible.
- E. Allow interior doors (those at the back leading into the sanctuary and the double doors leading out into the foyer) to remain open as conditions permit to limit touching of door handles.

- F. Provide sanitizing stations throughout the building, particularly at entry and exit points.
- G. Providing single-use barriers (i.e. paper towels) for use in touching door and sink handles in the bathroom.
- H. Use message boards or digital messaging and social media for announcements to eliminate use of bulletins and handouts.

### **VIII. Other Best Practice Safety Measures**

In addition to the requirements provided above, Fifth Baptist Church will utilize the following best practices to the extent in which they are feasible:

- A. Continue to offer virtual and live streaming services
- B. Limit time of worship service to reduce exposure.
- C. Continue paperless option and have announcements, hymns, etc. posted on teleprompters.
- D. Limit number of hymns sang as part of a service.
- E. Designate a health coordinator and or health equity team who will be responsible for COVID-19 planning and preparation for your place of worship.

Pamela Clarke **MSN, APRN, CHFN-K, FNP-C**  
Nurse Practitioner

**\*\*accepted by the Trustees, Deacons and Leadership Team of Fifth Baptist Church 1/20/22\*\***

#### **Members of the COVID-19/Safety Team:**

- Rev. Earl Brown & Rev. Ricardo Brown
- Mr. Norman Sales, Chair of the Trustee Board
- Pamela Clarke, Nurse Practitioner
- Dr. Barry Griffin
- Deacon Alan Griffin
- Gloria Bostick, Nurses Ministry President
- Chandra Hicks, Registered Nurse
- Deacon Edwin Smith
- Mr. Darnell Underwood, Superintendent
- Janitorial Staff
- Security Staff