



WELCOME AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA!

While you wait for the presentation to begin, open your browser and visit the following sites for relevant resources:

<https://coronavirus.churchmutual.com/>

<https://www.abcusa-insurance.com/>

Safely Returning to Worship

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This webinar, in conjunction with Church Mutual, is being sponsored by Sovereign, the nationally endorsed program manager for the American Baptist Churches USA insurance program.



National
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CURRENT SITUATION

Houses of worship play a critical role in the life of the community.

As the COVID-19 pandemic progressed, many houses of worship suspended in-person gatherings in accordance with government mandates or recommendations to limit the spread of the virus.



CURRENT SITUATION



Now that states and local communities are planning to ease restrictions, houses of worship are considering how and when to resume gathering for worship service and other activities.

TOPICS FOR TODAY

Prevention

- ✓ Understanding transmission.
- ✓ Tools for reducing spread.

Preparation

- ✓ Critical information to know.
- ✓ Make a plan.
- ✓ Communicate and train the plan.

Implementation

- ✓ Putting the plan into action.



PREVENTION



Transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) takes place through:

- ✓ Person-to-person contact
- ✓ Thing-to-person contact

Knowing this information helps inform tools and preparation needed to successfully reopen.

PREVENTION

Primary tools to reduce the risk of transmission/spread are:

- ✓ Social distance
- ✓ Disinfection

Organizations should establish protocols and procedures around adequate distancing, as well as enhanced cleaning practices.



PREPARATION



Critical numbers for planning:

- ✓ Six feet of distance = 113 sq. ft. per person.
- ✓ Virus can live up to seven days on surfaces.
- ✓ Disinfectants may need 2-10 minutes of contact (see EPA list).
- ✓ Symptoms show in 7-14 days.

The EPA provides guidance on [registered antimicrobial products for use against coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

PREPARATION

Make a plan that recognizes things will likely change over time.

- ✓ Assign responsibility for monitoring and incorporating government orders and guidance.
- ✓ Assign responsibility for coordinating with local health authorities and law enforcement.



PREPARATION



Make a plan that applies to different circumstances:

- ✓ Events and activities bring people together.
- ✓ Each space is different in area and contents.
- ✓ Staff and volunteers serve others.
- ✓ Some should not gather.
- ✓ Some may become ill at your facility.

PREPARATION

Make a plan that explores alternative worship solutions:

- ✓ Projecting the order of service, readings and songs.
- ✓ Substituting offering baskets for collection boxes or online giving.
- ✓ Weighing communion alternatives such as single use communion sets, sanitary preparation and distribution.
- ✓ Avoiding shared use of microphones by worship service celebrants and musicians.



PREPARATION



Gather supplies needed to support proper disinfection and personal hygiene.

Disinfecting supplies

- ✓ Disinfecting agents for your facility.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer for staff, volunteers and attendees.



Covering supplies

- ✓ Masks and gloves for staff and volunteers.
- ✓ Face coverings for attendees.

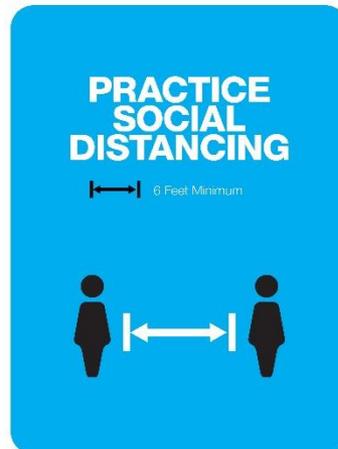
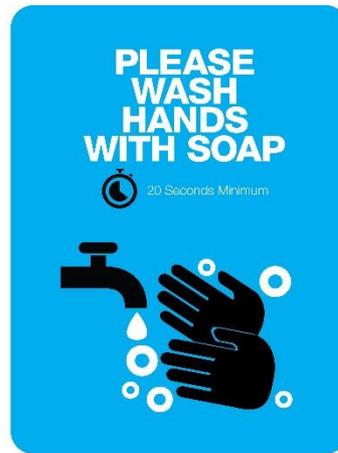
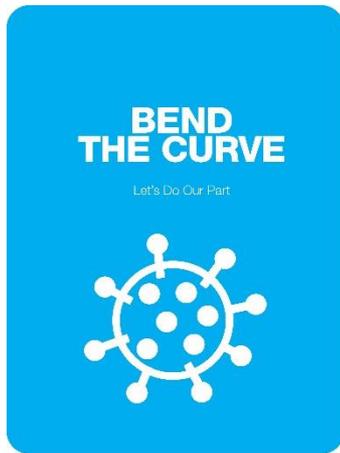
PREPARATION

Communicate your plan via multiple channels – email, website, newspaper, etc. – prior to reopening.

- ✓ Share details of the plan as circumstances change.
- ✓ Make the plan available to members and non-members alike.
- ✓ Reinforce message that persons who are ill or higher risk should continue worshipping remotely.



PREPARATION



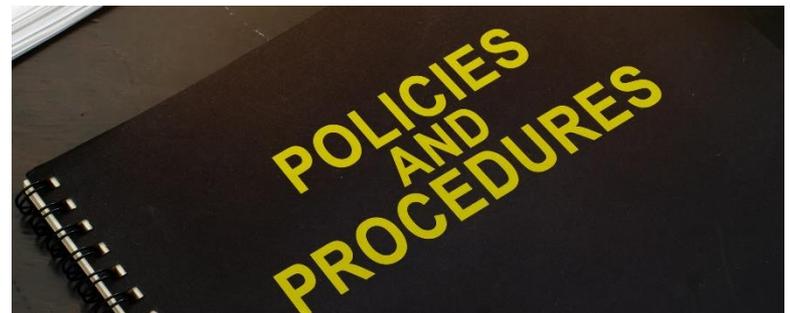
Develop **onsite instructional materials** such as signs or projected images to communicate the following:

- ✓ Directions to aid the flow of people and vehicles.
- ✓ Information on physical distancing and face coverings.
- ✓ Messaging to stay home if sick.
- ✓ Importance of handwashing and hygiene practices.

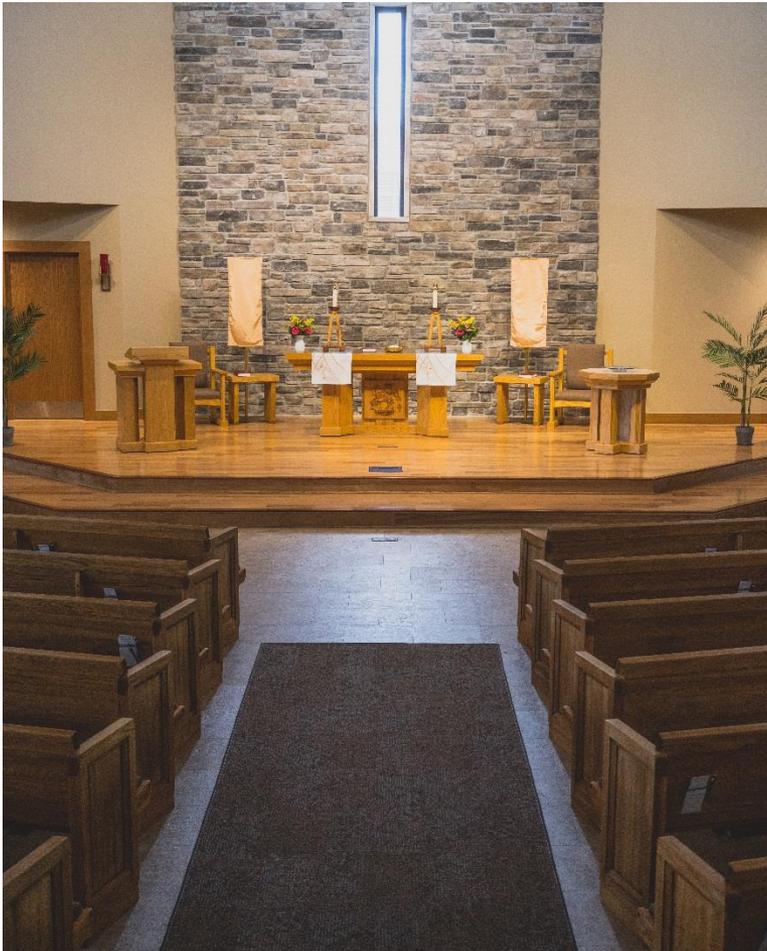
PREPARATION

Train staff, leaders, ushers and volunteers on established plans and procedures for services and gatherings, including:

- ✓ Admission criteria.
- ✓ Social distancing requirements.
- ✓ Isolation protocol.
- ✓ Cleaning agents and processes.



IMPLEMENTATION



Before and between services

- ✓ Disinfect the worship area.
- ✓ Disinfect worship materials such as microphones and music stands.
- ✓ Disinfect restrooms and other common areas.
- ✓ Replenish disinfecting and covering supplies.

IMPLEMENTATION

During services

- ✓ At entrances, prop doors open (weather permitting), apply admission criteria and provide hand sanitizer.
- ✓ Maintain planned spacing for seating and seat from front to back.
- ✓ Modify “passing the peace” or greeting time to avoid physical contact.



IMPLEMENTATION



After services

- ✓ Dismiss congregants back to front in a way that maintains social distancing both inside and outside the building.
- ✓ Disinfect your worship area, materials, rooms used and frequently touched items such as doors, light switches, chairs, etc.
- ✓ Provide hand sanitizer and new protective equipment (masks and gloves) to those that have post-service responsibilities.

IMPLEMENTATION

Children's activities

- ✓ Disinfect activity areas and equipment before, between and after activities.
- ✓ Establish admission criteria and have parents drop children off outside the activity area.
- ✓ Plan for activities that maintain appropriate spacing.



IMPLEMENTATION



Office operations

- ✓ Create accountability for yourself and your co-workers regarding established reopening protocols.
- ✓ Maintain physical distance and wear face coverings to protect each other.
- ✓ Consider having office spaces deep cleaned on a weekly basis.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Weddings and funerals

- ✓ Follow [federal guidelines](#) established around gathering sizes.

Playground use

- ✓ Consider discontinuing at present or implement additional safeguards and limitations.

Vacation bible school (VBS)

- ✓ Consider postponing to summer 2021.



ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

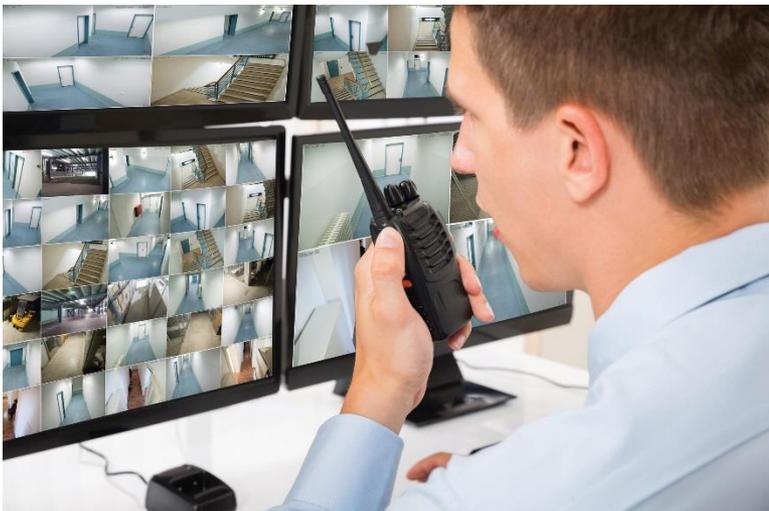


Mission trips

- ✓ Consider postponing at present.

Security

- ✓ Keep security considerations top of mind as economically and emotionally stressful times can lead to desperate acts.



QUESTIONS?

If you have a questions related
to **COVERAGE**...

Visit: abcusa-insurance.com

Call: (800) 222-4478 Ext. 3393



National
Insurance Program

If you have a **SAFETY** or **RISK**
MANAGEMENT question...

Visit: churchmutual.com/rcc

Call: (800) 554-2642 (Option 4) Ext. 5213



For more **coronavirus (COVID-19)**
information and **resources**...

Visit: coronavirus.churchmutual.com

RESOURCES

Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

Recommendations for Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

EPA's Registered Antimicrobial Products for Use Against Novel Coronavirus

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Federal Guidelines for Opening America Up Again

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Guidelines-for-Opening-Up-America-Again.pdf>

Resources for Community- and Faith-Based Leaders

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

RESOURCES

Basic Guide for Returning to your Church Building after COVID-19 (Georgia Baptist Mission Board)

<https://gabaptist.org/reopening-your-church-building/>

Guidelines for Returning to In-Person Worship Services (National Apostolic Christian Leadership Conference)

<https://www.upci.org/file/177/Guidelines%20For%20Returning%20to%20In-Person%20Worship%20Services.pdf>

COVID-19 Suggested Church Reopening Guidelines (Christian Law Association)

<https://christianlaw.org/covid-19-suggested-church-reopening-guidelines/>

Post-Coronavirus Facility Re-Opening Checklist (Smart Church Solutions)

<https://try.espace.cool/post-coronavirus-facility-reopening-checklist/>

Hartford Steam Boiler Equipment Checklists and Logs

<https://www.munichre.com/hsb/en/products/commercial-lines-insurers/equipment-breakdown/commercial-equipment-breakdown/logs-and-checklists.html>