

A Phased Approach to Reopening In-Person Worship

We are all experiencing a unique period of world history as nearly every nation across the globe is attempting to figure out the best way to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Only time will tell if shutting down our societies was truly necessary. As a means to reopen our state economy, while also striving to keep COVID-19 from rebounding aggressively, Washington state implemented a four-phased plan on May 4, "Safe Start Washington", to reach that goal. This plan has now been updated and refined to follow a county-by-county approach to reopening. A summary can be found by clicking on, or cut and pasting, the following link: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SafeStartPhasedReopening.pdf>. You can also view the guidelines for religious services here: https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Phase%201-3%20-%20Religious%20and%20faith-based%20orgs%20FINAL_6%2018%202020.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

The Session has examined and discussed both the four phases of the Safe Start Washington program and the guidelines for religious organizations in order to understand how they impact our own reopening of in-person worship. Below you will find what we believe to be a balanced and safe approach to bringing us together again for worship while also maintaining a good witness in our community so far as we are able. Each phase is in table format highlighting how each of our phases follows the concurrent phase of the state in relation to religious gatherings.

Please understand the situation is still fluid. This fluidity means the re-opening plan below can be changed depending on how the situation continues to evolve. We believe the final decision in how, where, and when we worship is up to the elders, who alone are the Christ appointed authority in the church.

Common Requirements for All Phases (COVID-19 Exposure Control, Mitigation, and Recovery Plan)

- *PPE Utilization*
 - Per state guidelines, masks are required while onsite for those over the age of 2 unless it is unsafe for the individual to do so. This includes while we sing. A mask can be provided for those who do not have one.
 - A clear partition will be placed between the pastor and the congregation while leading the service during these phases.
- *On-Location Physical Distancing*
 - Physical distancing of at least 6' will need to be observed. On nice days, consider going outside for post-worship fellowship.
- *Hygiene/Sanitation/Location Disinfection Procedures*
 - Please wash your hands before coming to church and make use of hand sanitizer when you arrive at the church, this will be on the foyer table.

- All surfaces will be properly cleaned according to CDC guidelines.
- A "COVID-19 Supervisor" will be assigned each week to be responsible for ensuring certain surfaces are sanitized as needed.
- *Symptom Monitoring/Incident Reporting/Exposure Response*
 - If you are ill, or think you are ill, please stay home and take part in the livestream service.
 - If you become ill while at church, please inform the COVID-19 Supervisor and either
 1. exit the building using the door at the foot of the stairs, or
 2. move to the classroom at the foot of the stairs, which has been designated the "Emergency Sick Room." After the service, you may leave with your family through the downstairs door.
- *Other Mitigation Efforts*
 - The doors and windows of the upstairs classrooms, pastor's study, and library along with the front doors will be left open to encourage more airflow and to mitigate possible virus accumulation in the building.
 - High risk individuals are strongly encouraged to remain home. If you understand the risk, and are willing to take that risk, we welcome you. WA State defines "high risk" as:

High-risk populations are currently defined by CDC as: persons 65 years of age and older; people of all ages with underlying medical conditions (particularly not well controlled), including people with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, people who have serious heart conditions, people who are immunocompromised, people with severe obesity, people with diabetes, people with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and people with liver disease; people who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility.
 - If you feel uncomfortable in attending worship physically, please join us remotely during these phases.
- *Miscellaneous*
 - Tithing will continue in the same format as during the time we have been apart, and a drop box will be added at the back of the auditorium for those who desire to give in person.
 - Livestream services will continue on our Facebook page.
 - The changes made by the Session to our Sunday schedule before the shutdown will be maintained (no Sunday School, nursery, fellowship meals, or passing of the offering).

Phase 1 Worship

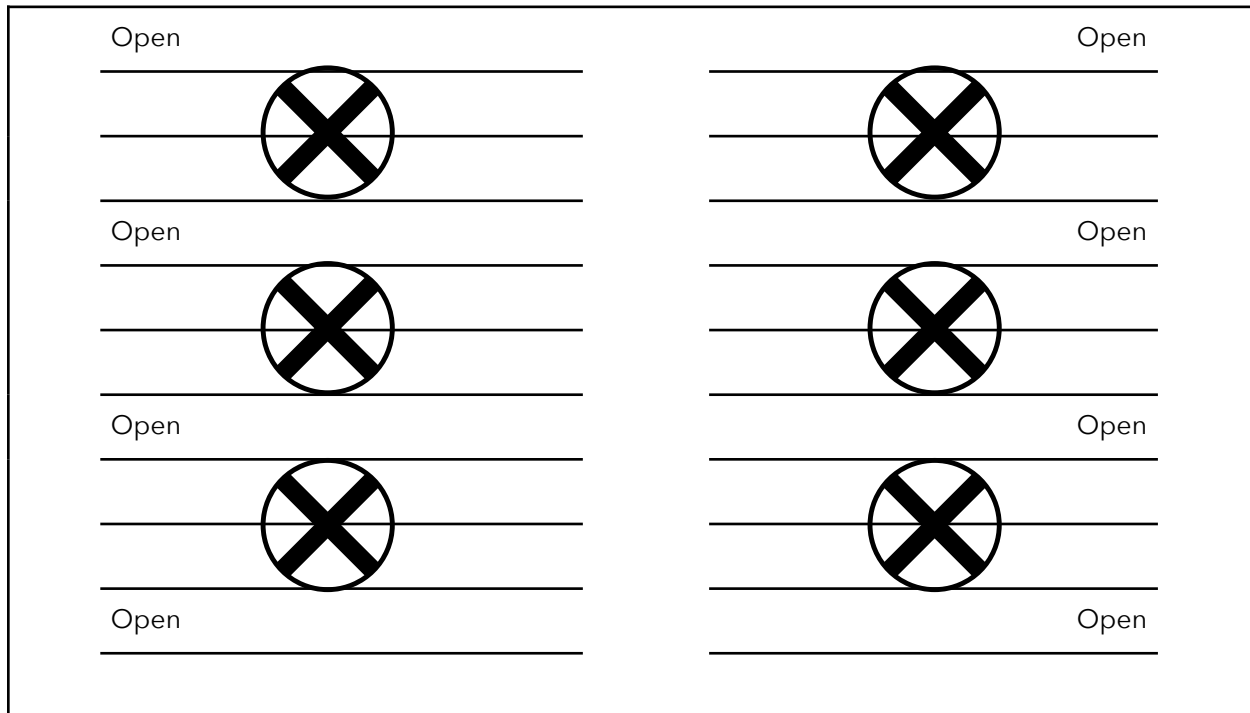
WA State Phase 1		Seattle RPC Phase 1
High-Risk Populations	Stay Home, Stay Healthy	Livestream worship, each household worshipping in their own home.
Spiritual Gatherings	Outdoor, <100 people	

Phase 2 Worship

WA State Phase 2	Seattle RPC Phase 2
High-Risk Populations	Stay Home, Stay Healthy
Spiritual Gatherings	<p>Livestream from home</p> <p>Our auditorium max capacity is 145, 25% is 36. Given the size of our congregation, we welcome anyone to attend who is able. Per State guidelines, please try to maintain 6' distance from those outside your household if sitting in the same pew. Some pews will be blocked off to ensure proper physical distancing (see Revised Phase 2 Seating Diagram). All you do not attend physically will be able to livestream as currently practiced.</p>

Phase 2 Recommended Seating Diagram

Entrance



Pulpit

Phase 3 Worship

WA State Phase 3		Seattle RPC Phase 3
High-Risk Populations	Stay Home, Stay Healthy	Livestream from home
Spiritual Gatherings	May hold indoor services at a place of worship with up to 50% capacity or up to 400 people, whichever is less, so long as six feet of physical distancing can be achieved between households.	Our practice will continue as in Phase 2.

Phase 4 Worship

WA State Phase 4		Seattle RPC Phase 4
High-Risk Populations	Resume public interactions, with physical distancing	Given the state's Phase 4 opens the area to pre-COVID-19 conditions, we will resume worship as normal before the restrictions were in place. All of the "Common Requirements" above will be discontinued.
Spiritual Gatherings	No specific guidance has been given	