

## REOPENING WEST HOUSTON BIBLE CHURCH

### PLAN AND PROCEDURES

5/31/2020

**Partial Reopening on July 5 and 12.** Because Pastor Dean and the deacons take the threat of CV-19 very seriously, we have waited to open the church until we believed there was a measure of safety. When we open, we will have some limitations and safeguards in place. As such, please remember: *services will not be as they were before the virus quarantine*. Social interaction inside of the church will be limited. Please limit these to outside of the church.

With Governor Abbott's phase III guidelines now in place, and enough time has transpired to determine if there is a spike in cases, we agree that we can partially reopen WHBC. Please use your own good judgment regarding personal attendance. Should you decide to attend, please be respectful of others and take all necessary precautions. We have a fairly high percentage of attendees that are both over the age of sixty-five and who also have underlying medical conditions. This makes the personal decision to attend church services particularly important. The following are general guidelines, information, and procedures:

**No Children's Classes or Nursery:** We plan to begin these at an undetermined later date. Until then, all children must *stay with* their parents. There will be live streaming of each Sunday service in the Fellowship Hall, and parents of children who will have difficulty being quiet for the sessions are asked to be seated there with children. We encourage parents with very small children or infants to remain at home until the Nursery reopens.

**Entry Doors:** Many businesses are keeping some doors open the entire time of business, or there are door monitors to open the doors. To keep this simple there will be hand sanitizer dispensers inside the front and rear entries.

**Hand Sanitizer Availability:** Hand sanitizer will be located in several places in the foyer. Please use some as you enter and again as you leave.

#### **Limited Seating:**

- a) Every other row will be taped off. Please be seated as far forward as possible and move to the center of the row with spacing between groups as follows:
- b) We ask family units sit together with at least 3 chairs between family units. Two or more individuals who are not members of the same household, but who are attending together, may also sit adjacent to one another, with 3 empty seats on either side.
- c) If you plan to attend and you leave your seat, please mark your seat with a bulletin, Bible, or other personal items and return to the same seats.

**Live Streaming in Fellowship Hall:** The room will be set up as usual, with each table positioned 6 feet apart. As stated above, we encourage families with younger children to utilize this room, but the room is open to anyone.

**Social Distancing:** Please refrain from shaking hands or touching others, and maintain 6 feet of spacing between yourself (family unit) and others.

**Offering and Communion:** We will not be passing the offering plates or communion plates for an undetermined time. Offering receptacles are on the wall between the Fellowship Hall and the auditorium. When we observe communion on 12 July, there will be a box near the entries to the auditorium, with someone handing out communion element packets. Please carefully open yours when the service begins, so that you will be prepared when we partake of the elements.

**Dismissal:** We will dismiss by row, starting in the back of auditorium. Ushers will assist. Please don't congregate in the auditorium or in the foyer. Neither Dr. Dean nor the deacons will be greeting people after the service

**Face Masks Usage:** All of us are learning to wear face masks when we are in public spaces. Many businesses are mandating the wearing of face masks. We strongly recommend using them at church. If you are in a high-risk category and plan to attend, we also strongly encourage you to wear a face mask.

**Food and Drinks:** No food, coffee, or tea will be provided until further notice.

**Worship Service Music:** there will be no **Congregational Singing** for at least the first two Sundays due to concerns that singing spreads the air-borne virus 2-3 times farther than normal.

**Seating Disinfection:** All seating will be cleaned each week before church services using the disinfectant *Sniper*. (See <https://www.nokout.com/SNiPER-Disinfectant/> for information about this product.) Hard surfaces like door handles, light switches, countertops, faucets, etc., will be wiped down.

**Congregational Responsibilities:** Please take all necessary precautions and use your best judgment regarding attendance (and your children's attendance). Please wash your hands and maintain acceptable social distance.

Please stay at home if:

a) you are sick with cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, fever of 100 degrees F. or higher, or have possibly been exposed to COVID-19 during the last 2 weeks;

b) you have underlying at-risk medical conditions (e.g., heart, lung issues, and/or diabetes); and

c) you are over 65, please carefully consider the decision to attend. Live streaming will continue to be available.

**Disclaimer:** COVID-19 is highly contagious and is known to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. By attending West Houston Bible Church, you agree to abide by the procedures established by the church to protect attendees and staff, and you voluntarily assume the risk that you and/or your family may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 either at the church, in the church worship service, or Prep School. You agree to assume all the risks of attendance and

participation for you and your family, and you waive any liability against the church and any other parties.

The Deacons, West Houston Bible Church