

## Tennessee Church of God Back to Church Guidelines

We are excited to announce our tentative plans to launch in-person services again. Dates are obviously only targeted dates and subject to change depending on the circumstances. It is with this anticipation in mind that I encourage each pastor to do two things.

**First**, operate within the guidelines of our state and local municipalities.

*Special Note: Shelby, Madison, Davidson, Hamilton, Knox, Sullivan counties and the city of Chattanooga have their own reopen strategies.*

**Secondly**, develop your own church's specific strategy for getting your local church operational as the phased in opportunities arise

### We propose these three phases as a suggested resource and templet.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### **Phase I - Soft Start**

Perhaps use this service for staff members, volunteers and a few others to prepare your core for the protocol for social distancing as future services resume.

MAY 10<sup>th</sup>

#### **Phase II – Social Distance Church**

Open the church's doors for people to worship in-person again.

Slowly acclimate and be cautious around one another as we come together again.

We ask during this phase that everyone abides with these guidelines:

- Spread Out, Wear Masks (optional), Restrict Contact
- Senior Adults and those with risks encouraged to continue to watch online.
- Senior Adults who do come could be encouraged to attend an early service (generally less attended; Traditional Music Format)
- NO CHOIR, NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH, NO NURSERY, NO MID-WEEK SERVICES  
NO SMALL GROUPS

Move slowly toward normal operations over a period of weeks based upon state/local recommendations.

Continue social distancing and arrange the church sanctuary and activities to accommodate these temporary norms.

Make available hand sanitizer, masks, and gloves to attendees.

Continue enhanced cleaning practices of facilities.

Exercise extreme caution with all direct outreach ministry.

Exercise extreme caution concerning elderly attendees and those with health risks.

Avoid the urge to have church fellowship meals for the immediate future.

In all likelihood, it will take several weeks to months for many parishioners to feel comfortable in public gatherings.

DATE TO BE DETERMINED

#### **Phase III Back to Normal**

The pandemic we have faced came upon us suddenly, but it will not quickly fade from the minds of our parishioners. Therefore, let us be patient with our church family and communities as we begin to reopen our buildings and re-engage our ministries.