

8/6/20

## Covid-19 Safety Protocol

### A plan to resume ministry at Eliot Baptist Church: Three Phase Plan for Children/Youth Ministry

Resuming face-to-face ministry at Eliot Baptist Church depends a great deal on the phase of recovery our local area is experiencing. The phase of recovery is determined by our State and local government leaders. “Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished... do what is right.” Romans 13:1-3

As outlined by the White House plan to re-open America, and local guidelines, we adopt the following:

**Phase one:** Restaurants, movie theaters, sporting venues, places of worship and gyms can reopen if they observe strict social distancing. Schools currently closed should remain shut and visits to senior living facilities and hospitals should be prohibited. People 65+ or those with underlying health conditions should avoid contact.

Maine defines **Strict** Social Distancing as: "Stay Healthy at Home", a directive that requires people living in Maine to stay at home at all times unless for an essential job or an essential personal reason, such as obtaining food, medicine, health care, or other necessary purposes at such time they must maintain 6' distancing and are recommended to wear a mask in public spaces.

**No face-to-face gathering of Children/Youth ministry should exist at this stage. Avenues of ministry include:**

- **Emails, text messaging, video meetings**
- **Monthly newsletter**
- **Online Monthly memory verse**
- **Online Weekly Wednesday lesson links**
- **Online Weekly Jesus Storybook Bible readings- YouTube** ○
- **Online Weekly “What’s in the Bible” lesson link**
- **Online Weekly Student ministry Bible study**

**Phase two:** Schools and organized youth activities like camps can reopen. Nonessential travel can resume, and people can start circulating in parks, outdoor recreational areas and shopping centers, while avoiding gatherings of more than 50 individuals unless unspecified precautionary measures are taken. Large venues can operate under **moderate** social distancing rules. Vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place. Common areas where people congregate in close quarters should be closed.

Maine defines **moderate** Social Distancing as: “spreading people out- literally. Maintaining groups of 250 people or lower. Outdoor gatherings are preferred.”

- EBC Children’s/Youth ministry will strive to replicate the practices of SAD35 and/or the town of Eliot Community Rec department; doing so sends a consistent message to parents.
- Outdoor activities/meetings are preferred to indoor meetings.
- Jr/Sr high Youth group and Bible Study resume.
- Participants are expected to wear a mask while attending.
- Children’s play time between services will NOT be available at this time. Children will go directly to class and be picked up by parent in designated area. (exception made for 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade).
- Food and toys in Children’s ministry will NOT be available at this time. Kids library will NOT be available at this time.

**Phase three:** Vulnerable individuals can resume public interactions but practice social distancing. Large public venues can operate under limited social distancing rules.

- EBC Sunday School, Children's Church and Youth Groups resume following limited social distancing rules.
- Children/Student group activities resume following limited social distancing rules.

## Before ANY face-to-face meetings resume:

- Child/youth teachers & helpers will be contacted to confirm they wish to return to church.
- Air exchanger added to classroom C2.
- Check in- TEMPORARILY close self-check in; check in will be done via breeze.
- Children supplies- Create personal box of pen/pencil, crayons, scissors, glue with name for each child to use weekly. Box's disinfected after each use.
- Children's Church offering cards and classroom Bibles must be stored differently and disinfected after each use.
- Encourage ministry staff and all attendees to practice good personal health habits each day.
- Visibly post materials from reputable sources on prevention and symptoms of illness.
- Gather supplies such as soap, hand sanitizers, tissues and disposable face masks that will be distributed on-site as needed.
- Make sure both attendees and staff members will have access to the supplies.
- Plan for staff and volunteer absence. Event organizers should adopt flexible attendance policies that encourage leaders who are ill or caring for someone else who is ill to stay home.
- Meet with EBC emergency operations coordinator. Discuss their emergency protocol and develop a contingency plan that addresses various coronavirus scenarios that could impact the meeting.

- Discourage anyone who is sick from attending the meeting and request that people who begin displaying any coronavirus symptoms leave immediately.
- Assess whether an event could be held virtually and make it available if possible. Use existing automated platforms that can be used to quickly disseminate updates to staff members and attendees via text message, email and more.

## During ANY gathering:

- Maintain a healthy stockpile of prevention supplies such as hand sanitizer, soap and face masks.
- Frequently touched surfaces and objects should be cleaned/disinfected on a regular basis.
- A ready source for face masks and sanitation products is required before ministry can resume. Outdoor activities will be the preferred method of ministry and fun.
- Isolate those exhibiting signs of sickness from the rest of the group. Church Security will notify parents when a sick child must be removed from the group. A quarantine tent, outside the church building will be used to isolate those showing signs of illness.