

Island Presbyterian Church Standard Response Protocol for COVID-19

Stages	Condition and Action
0	<p align="center">No Pandemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vaccine is widely available and the CDC/Nueces County Health Department is no longer recommending the wearing of masks, physical distancing, or screening of attendees. • Normal in person worship and activities as usual, as identified in Exhibit 1, pages 4-7.
1	<p align="center">Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff and person(s) that have attended church, participated in any in-person church activity, have been inside the facility, or have been in contact with any church member or attendee. • Applicable church safety protocols in place, as identified in Exhibit 1, pages 4-7. • Nueces County Weekly “Positivity Rate” of less than 5% of those tested are positive for more than 2 weeks in a row. • Nueces County Average daily new cases 14-day average below 12.5 for every 100,000 of population. Data to be derived from the Nueces County Corpus Christi Health Department Covid-19 website https://corpus.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/fe742480193d4ff98f7af38c5104cfc. Population will be determined by using data from the US Census Bureau. • All high-risk individuals (65+, people with underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, chronic respiratory conditions, etc.) encouraged to exclusively participate in on-line gatherings only • Church meetings and outside groups allowed as chart of capacity and cost per meeting room for Modified Operations allows. <p>Coastal Community Church (CCC) and outside groups allowed to use the church worship space just like IPC; however, CCC and outside groups will have to pay IPC for sanitizing, cleaning, and disinfecting after each use. See chart of capacity and costs for sanitizing per use per room/facility (Table #2, page 8).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility for organized events <u>OUTSIDE</u> with groups larger than 10; may include OUTDOOR Worship. • All Session members and committees must fulfill the obligations of their areas of responsibility in order for the church to open.
	<p align="center">Modified Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff and person(s) that have attended church, participated in any church activity, been inside the facility or have been in contact with any church member or attendee. • Applicable church safety protocols in place, as identified in Exhibit 1, pages 4-7. • Nueces County Weekly “Positivity Rate” greater than 5% of those tested are positive for more than 2 weeks in a row.

2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nueces County Average daily new cases 14-day average above 12.5 for every 100,000 of population. • Modified in person worship with social distancing, masks, all church safety protocols in place and in use and screening protocols in place and in use. • Possible church-related small-group meetings in person, with appropriate protocol activities (inside church, 5 people in a meeting/group, total of 7 in church, if other 2 are in a different location/room). • Recommendation to establish in-home worship teams of 6 or fewer for those that do not have access to technology (ZOOM/Facebook Live). Each team to have a primary and secondary technology mentor. • All high-risk individuals (65+, people with underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, chronic respiratory conditions, etc.) STRONGLY encouraged to exclusively participate in on-line gatherings only. • All Session members and committees must fulfill the obligations of their areas of responsibility in order for the church to open.
3	<p>Facility Closure, Online Worship only, Worship team in Sanctuary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When 3% of the staff and person(s) that have attended church (based on average weekly church attendance in 2019 – this equates to 2 people, see Table 1, page 8) have confirmed case/s of COVID-19. If the infected member/s attendee/s have not attended church, participated in any church activity, not been inside the facility, and have not been in contact with any church member or attendee, they will not be counted toward the 3% infected. • Worship moves to online and the only persons allowed in the church during worship are the worship team. • Applicable church safety protocols in place, as identified in Exhibit 1. • Possible church-related small-group meetings in person, with appropriate protocol activities (inside church, 5 people in a meeting/group, total of 7 in church, if other 2 are in a different location/room). • Possibility of one-on-one visits or hospital visits by pastor or deacons. • No outside groups may meet inside the facility. • Recommendation to establish in-home worship teams of 6 or fewer for those that do not have access to technology (ZOOM/Facebook Live). Each team to have a primary and secondary technology mentor. • All high-risk individuals (65+, people with underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, chronic respiratory conditions, etc.) STRONGLY encouraged to exclusively participate in on-line gatherings only. • All Session members and committees must fulfill the obligations of their areas of responsibility in order for the church to open.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Facility Closure, Online Worship only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When 5% of the staff and person(s) that have attended church (based on average weekly church attendance in 2019 – this equates to 4 people, See Table 1, page 8)

4

have confirmed case/s of COVID-19. If the infected member/s or attendee/s have not attended church, participated in any church activity, not been inside the facility and have not been in contact with any church member or attendee, they will not be counted toward the 5% infected.

- Online worship only, worship team broadcast from their homes, no one in the church during worship.
- Applicable church safety protocols in place, as identified in Exhibit 1, pages 4-7.
- No meetings or gatherings in the church except minimal personnel to maintain the church and ensure security.
- Recommendation to continue in-home worship teams of 6 or fewer for those that do not have access to technology (ZOOM/Facebook Live). Each team to have a primary and secondary technology mentor.
- No hospital or home visits

**EXHIBIT 1
CHURCH SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

PROTOCOLS FOR BUILDING USAGE:

Stage 0 No Pandemic - Preparation of Building for Use

- **Normal in-person worship and activities as usual.**

Stages 1 Prevention & 2 Modified Operations - Preparation of Building for Use

- **Sanctuary and any other meeting rooms/areas:**
 - Mark the sanctuary and any other utilized meeting rooms for social distancing. See Table #2, page 8 for maximum occupancy.
 - Pulpit, choir, and soloist at least 9' from the congregation.
 - Everyone should be masked prior to entering the building. Provide masks, if needed.
 - Provide hand sanitizer. Everyone should use hand sanitizer prior to entering building.
 - Thoroughly clean and sanitize the sanctuary/meeting room or meeting area after each worship service or meeting.
 - Remove hymnals, bibles, and paper from pew racks.
 - Only use bulletins once placed on a table for people to pick up – not handed out by an usher (possibly eliminate bulletin, use screens for liturgy).
 - Offering plate is not passed; encourage E-giving via Venmo. Provide a drop box for offering to be placed in.
 - Provide alternative means for Communion, touch free. . No passing the bread or wine and no Communion via intinction.
 - No passing of the peace that requires touching or encroaching on social distancing.
 - Posts signs about protocols (if sick – no entry, no hand shaking, hugging, etc.).
 - No nursery care
 - No fellowship time
 - Dismissing rows in an orderly fashion.
 - No groups may exceed the maximum occupancy identified in Table 2, page 8.
 - **Track who is at each worship service or in-person gathering with contact information.**
 - Provide on-line worship simultaneously with any in-person worship.
 - No physical contact between members, staff, each other

Stage 3 Facility Closure, Online Worship only, Worship team in Sanctuary - Preparation of Building for Use –

- **Sanctuary and any other meeting rooms/areas:**
 - Mark the sanctuary and any other utilized meeting rooms for social distancing. See Table #2, page 8 for maximum occupancy.
 - Pulpit, choir, and soloist at least 9' from the congregation.
 - Everyone should be masked prior to entering the building. Provide masks, if needed.
 - Provide hand sanitizer. Everyone should use hand sanitizer prior to entering building.
 - Thoroughly clean and sanitize the sanctuary/meeting room or meeting area after each worship service or meeting.

Stage 4 Facility Closure, Online Worship only –

- **Building not in use during worship.**
 - Building will be cleaned and sanitized on an as needed basis, as determined by Session and the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

PROTOCOLS FOR INDIVIDUALS ENTERING BUILDING:

Stage 0 No Pandemic

- **Normal in-person worship and activities as usual.**

Stage 1 Prevention & Stage 2 Modified Operations –

- **Screening Prior to In-Person Worship or other meetings**
 - It is critical that if staff, members, or attendees have symptoms of COVID-19 they stay home to avoid spreading illness to others.
 - **Staff and any person planning to enter the church building** will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to the church each day, by asking themselves “Are you experiencing any of the following **that is not normal for you?**”
 - Fever (equal or greater than 100.0 degrees)
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - **Actions taken by church attendant prior to allowing persons to enter the building for worship or other meeting. Each person will be required to be screened as follows:**
 - Temperature will be taken. If temperature is equal to or greater than 100.0 degrees, the person will not be allowed to enter the building.
 - All will be asked if they have recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way **that is not normal for you?**
 - Fever (equal or greater than 100.0 degrees)
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Headache

- Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea or vomiting
- Verify contact information in the IPC directory is current. If not listed in the directory, provide contact information concerning pertinent COVID-19 tracking data with guidance from local health authorities and/or governing agencies.
- **Actions to be taken by individuals prior to entering the building:**
 - Wear an acceptable mask or face cover (gaiters and masks with valves or holes are not acceptable face coverings).
 - Exercise physical distancing (at least 6' apart) to the greatest extent possible.
 - Sanitize your hands.
 - Confirm contact information in the IPC directory is current. If not listed in the directory, provide contact information concerning pertinent COVID-19 tracking data with guidance from local health authorities and/or governing agencies.

Stage 3 Facility Closure, Online Worship only, Worship Team in Sanctuary –

- **Self-Screening by Staff & Worship Team Prior to Worship**
 - It is critical that if staff and worship team members have symptoms of COVID-19 they stay home to avoid spreading illness to others.
 - **Staff planning to enter the church building** will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to the church each day, by asking themselves “Are you experiencing any of the following **that is not normal for you?**”
 - Fever (equal or greater than 100.0 degrees)
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - Chills
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - **Actions to be taken by individuals prior to entering the building:**
 - Wear an acceptable mask or face cover (gaiters and masks with valves or holes are not acceptable face coverings).
 - Exercise physical distancing (at least 6' apart) to the greatest extent possible.

- Sanitize your hands.
- Confirm contact information in the IPC directory is current. If not listed in the directory, provide contact information concerning pertinent COVID-19 tracking data with guidance from local health authorities and/or governing agencies.

Stage 4 Facility Closure, Online Worship only –

- **No one Allowed in Building during worship**
- No meetings or gatherings in the church except minimal personnel to maintain the church and ensure security.

Additional Information:

- **Individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19:**
 - An individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to worship, church activities, or non-church meetings or events when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - At least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications).
 - The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to worship, church activities, or non-church meetings or events until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

- **Individuals who have symptoms that could be COVID-19 and want to return to worship, church activities or non-church meetings or events must:**
 - Obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
 - Obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location that comes back negative for COVID-19.

If an individual has had close contact* with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19:

- They must remain out of worship, church activities, or non-church meetings or events until the 14-day incubation period has passed.

* The definition of close contact is: Having spent 30 or more minutes with an individual in close quarters and social distancing and masks were not used. The individual has been directly exposed to secretions (cough, sneeze).

Table # 1

2019 Monthly Average Attendance	
Month	Attendance
January	90
February	84
March	61
April	59
May	77
June	73
July	75
August	74
September	83
October	67
November	64
December	68
Total	875
÷ 12	73

Table #2

Room Occupancy Maximums and Cost to Sanitize		
Room	Maximum Occupancy*	Cost to Sanitize
Sanctuary/Multi-purpose	37	\$100
Main bathrooms	NA	\$20
Annex	15	\$50
Small bathrooms	NA	\$15
Nursery	6	\$30
Prayer Chapel	4	\$20
Noah's Arc	8	\$15
Youth room	4	\$15
Kitchen	4	\$30
Meeting area outside office	6	\$20

*Maximum occupancy and costs will/may be adjusted as they are marked and costs can be more accurately calculated.