

May 2020

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# RETURN TO CHURCH

## Plan and Policies



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# Introduction

For the past few months, while we have been concerned for religious liberty, we have nevertheless followed the guidance of our government for the safety of others and canceled all church services in order to practice social distancing during the COVID-19 breakout.

Now, as our president is urging cautious return to business, our state is approaching its “Phase 3” for reopening, we feel a stirring from God to prepare adequately and safely for the slow and safe return to worship. We have sought legal and medical counsel, as well as consultation with our elected officials, in making this plan. Mostly, we are sensitive to the leading of the Lord in the process.

Please recognize that this is a work in progress with many variables. Churches in states with less sickness may return to worship earlier, and smaller churches may mobilize more quickly. We all need to study and prepare for the issue in context of our circumstances.

It is imperative that COBC return with proper patience, understanding, and biblical conviction. Church members and workers are urged to read this document in order to participate in upcoming services. We all desire safety as instructed by government leaders (Romans 13), and we desire to obey the command of Scripture to assemble and worship (Hebrews 10:25). We believe church is essential! Let’s work together to make this happen for the glory of God and with a right testimony to those who have not yet trusted Christ as Savior.

**Note:** This is still a work in progress and will change in the days and weeks to come.

**The Pastoral Team**

# SECTION ONE

Regarding Senior Citizens/Those with Underlying Health Conditions/ Primary Caregivers for People with Underlying Conditions





# Section One

Regarding Senior Citizens/  
Those with Underlying  
Health Conditions/ Primary  
Caregivers for People with  
Underlying Conditions

Because of the dangers related to COVID-19, we are asking all members age 65 and older and members of all ages who have underlying health conditions such as breathing conditions, cancer treatments, suppressed immune systems, etc., to consider staying home and continuing to worship via livestream, at least initially.

It may be necessary for those folks to stay away from “crowds” longer, however, we must start with this safety measure.

## **Who Is at Risk?**

**Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:**

- People 65 years and older

**People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:**

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised  
Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.



- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

## Section One

Regarding Senior Citizens/  
Those with Underlying  
Health Conditions/ Primary  
Caregivers for People with  
Underlying Conditions

**If we become aware of someone who becomes ill, we will ask the person to stay home and seek medical care if needed. Persons should stay at home for at least fourteen days after symptoms started AND a week after symptoms are improved and fever resolves without the use of fever-reducing medications.**

**Source:** Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website, April 2020

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

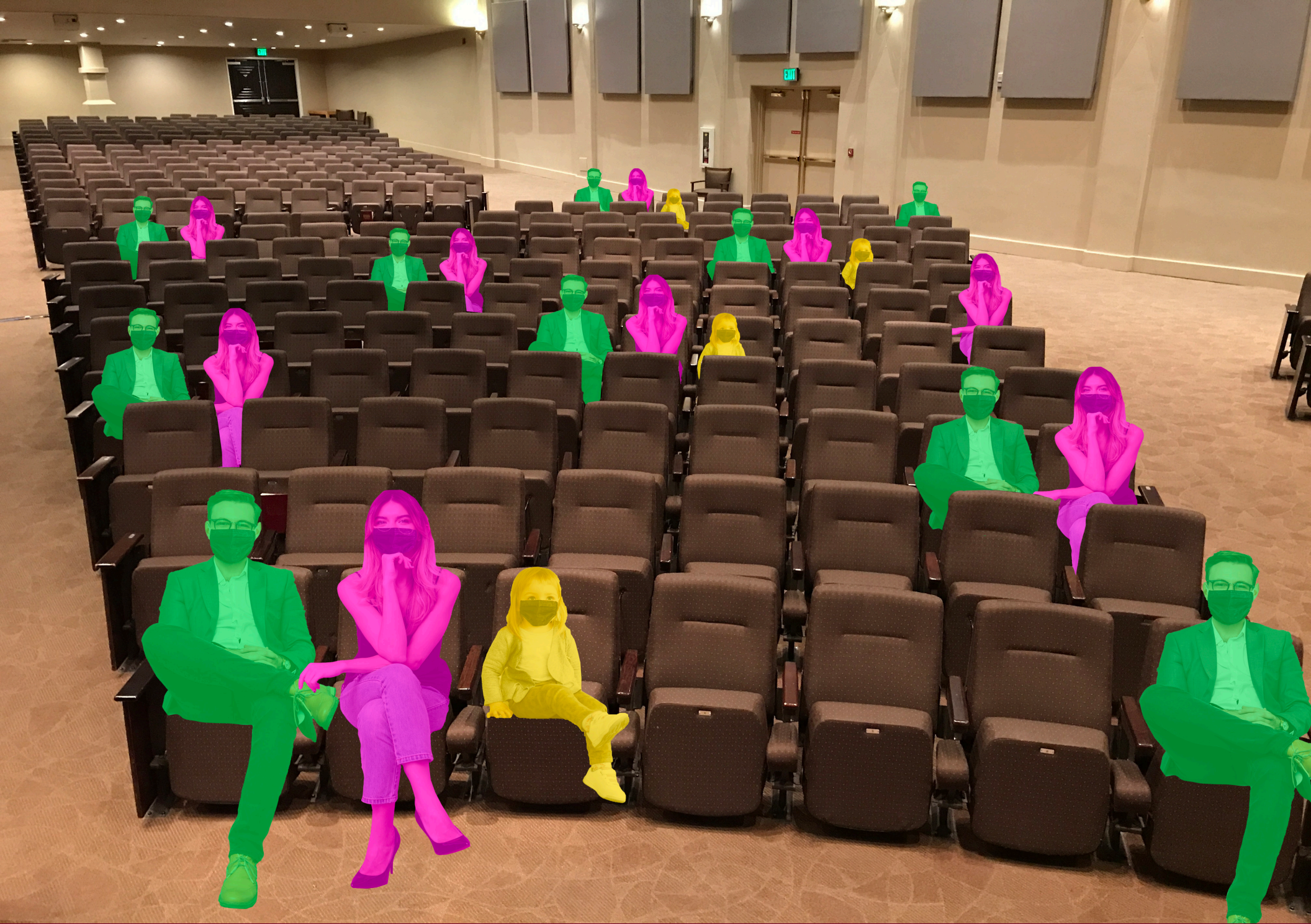




# SECTION TWO

Social Distancing









# Section Two

## Social Distancing

Signs will be posted around our church campus, and shall be observed by members and guests on return to campus. No one should plan to attend services who is known to have had any recent contact with a known COVID-19 confirmed case.

Members are asked to maintain six feet distance when speaking with one another. We will follow county guidelines regarding the use of masks.

Those wanting to make use of a mask are encouraged to do so, although masks are not being required at this time.

**To simplify this process, the following practices shall be observed:**

### DO

- ✓ Wash your hands before and after services
- ✓ Stay six feet from others
- ✓ Cover your coughs or sneezes
- ✓ Visit hand sanitizer stations frequently
- ✓ Be willing to have your temperature taken

### DON'T

- ✗ Shake hands
- ✗ Hug others
- ✗ Come to church if you are sick
- ✗ Touch your hands, nose, and mouth
- ✗ Leave trash in the Main Auditorium



# Section Two

## Social Distancing

### **Volunteers**

With the help of our volunteers, we will be observing these distancing policies:

- In the parking lot, we may use every other parking space.
- Ushers will wear gloves if passing out or collecting materials.
- Attenders and ushers will maintain social distancing of six feet.
- Auditorium doors will be propped open to avoid the touching of door handles.
- Hallways and aisles will be clearly marked for one-way foot traffic. Please follow all signage inside the building.
- Doors will be designated as “entrance-only” or “exit-only.” Please observe all signage.
- Ushers will seat attenders before the services. Families will sit together. There will be sufficient spacing between families.
- We will sit staggered in the rows in an alternate seating pattern to ensure social distancing. Distancing will be kept in all directions—front, back, left, and right - Please see diagram, page 8.





# Section Two

## Social Distancing

- We will not be distributing a service bulletin or printed outline. We will continue to email bulletin announcements to the church family.
- No coffee or food will be shared on campus.
- Playgrounds on the property will be closed.

### **Believer's Baptism**

When we resume baptisms, we will observe and apply county guidelines.

### **Children's Ministry**

- As of now there will be no Children's Ministry or nursery, but that may change soon.
- The Chapel and Grove will be made available for nursing moms while maintaining social distancing.
- Kids will need to stay with their parents at all times.



# SECTION THREE

The Sanitization of Our Facilities



# Section Three

## The Sanitization of Our Facilities

While COBC has always maintained high quality standards of cleaning our facilities, many adjustments have been made in order to prevent illness from spreading in our common areas.

### **Facility Janitorial/Maintenance**

- Every worker, staff member, and/or volunteer performing cleaning tasks will be required to wear gloves while working at all times. New gloves will be put on after completing a restroom or area of the building.
- Masks will be required as necessary.
- Only cleaning products provided by the ministry as well as CDC approved commercial-grade products from Supply Works janitorial provider will be used. Approved cleaning products use these chemicals: Isopropyl Alcohol, Nonionic Surfactant, Quaternary Ammonium Chloride.
- Every worker, staff member, and/or volunteer will adhere to the six foot social distancing rule while working.

### **Entry Doors/Lobbies**

- Handles to all entry/exit doors are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Handles to all restroom and closet doors are being sanitized before and after each service, and once an hour during services.
- Counters, tables, Guest Service Counters, staircase rails, and all lobby furniture is being sanitized before and after each service.



# Section Three

## The Sanitization of Our Facilities

- Drinking fountains are presently unavailable.
- Sanitizer stations are cleaned, checked for functionality, and refilled before and after each service.
- Light switches are sanitized before and after every service.
- Facial tissue will be available in the back of the Worship Center.

### **Restrooms**

- Every worker, staff member, and/or volunteer performing cleaning tasks will be required to wear gloves while working at all times. New gloves will be put on after completing each restroom. A mask may be required as necessary.
- Toilets, urinals, and sinks will be sanitized before each service and after. We are encouraging members to please use the restroom at home before heading to church.
- Counters and surfaces will be sanitized before and after every service and once an hour during services.

### **Worship Center**

- Handles to all entry/exit doors are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Chairs and tables used by the ushers are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Immediately after each service, the entire auditorium will be sanitized.
- After each service, we will remove all trash and left over personal items from the auditorium. Personal items will be taken to the lost and found.





# SECTION FOUR

## Service Times



# Section Four

## Service Times

We anticipate rolling out our services in incremental steps as guidance is received.

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence, or another pandemic, COBC will reevaluate its physical gathering plans and procedures.

Also, depending upon governmental and medical guidelines, we could change the schedule, and we will communicate these changes as clearly and consistently as possible. The most current and reliable information will continue to be found on the church's website and Facebook page.

### **Sunday Morning Service Schedule**

- Service times are subject to change, in accordance to state and local guidelines. Please watch the COBC website, our Facebook page and Instagram account for the most current schedule.
- We will have overflow in the Chapel and the Grove.
- Each family will be separated by 3-4 seats from the next family.
- Ushers will seat members and alternate seating patterns to ensure social distancing.

### **Wednesday Evenings**

- We will continue to livestream on Wednesday evenings.



A grayscale photograph of a church service. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulders is visible, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background shows other people in a church setting, some with their arms raised, and a bright, possibly windowed area at the front of the sanctuary.

# APPENDIX

Concepts and Resources



# Appendix

## Resources

1. “COVID-19 Suggested Church Reopening Guidelines,” Christian Law Association, Dr. David Gibbs
2. “Guidelines for Opening Up America Again,” prepared by the White House and CDC, April 2020
3. Interim Guidance for Administrators and Leaders of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>, April 2020
4. “Checklist for Churches—Reopening of Indoor Services,” Pacific Justice Institute, April 2020
5. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Faith-Based Organizations, <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/community/>



**COUNTRY OAKS**

baptist church

20915 Schout Road,  
Tehachapi, CA 93561  
[info@countryoaks.org](mailto:info@countryoaks.org)  
661.822.1379