

# **Re-opening and In-Person Worship**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**



**Reedy Fork Baptist Church**

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# RFBC Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. When will we return to in-person worship?

- Our plans are to return when all Personal Protection Equipment, training, essential support persons are in place, and state and county Coronavirus infections are on a continuous fourteen-day decline and we have reached 5% positive rate in the community.
- On May 12, 2020 The World Health Organization (WHO) advised governments that before reopening, rates of positivity should remain at 5% or lower for at least 14 days.

## 2. Will face masks be required for persons attending worship and visiting our facility?

- Yes, face coverings will be required by all persons, with the exception of individuals two years old and younger. If persons do not have face masks, we will provide **(No Face Covering – No Entrance)**.

## 3. What is the proper way to wear a facemask?

- Wash or sanitize hands before you put your mask on, try not to touch your face when putting your mask on. When taking off your mask, place in a plastic container or discard.
- Make sure it covers your nose and mouth.
- Wash reusable face mask after each usage.

## 4. Should I come to church if I am feeling ill?

- **NO!!!** If you are experiencing any type of fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea, **PLEASE STAY HOME!**

## 5. What are the directives for persons who are at a higher risk for severe illness?

- Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:
  - People aged 65 years and older
  - People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and those undergoing dialysis, and liver disease.
  - 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)
- Any person experiencing the above conditions are requested to remain at home.

- 6. What are directives for persons that have been exposed to or have been in contact with persons who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.**
- Persons who have been exposed to or have been in contact with a person who has tested positive should quarantine themselves for a minimum of 14 days.
- 7. Will Personal Protection Equipment (PPE's) be available onsite?**
- Yes, Personal Protection Equipment will be provided on site by RFBC Staff, Greeters and RFBC Health Care Ministry. However, persons are requested to bring their own masks and gloves, etc.
- 8. Will our facility be sanitized after each use, and at what frequency will it be sanitized?**
- Yes, our facilities will be sanitized after each gathering (i.e. funerals, worship services, or any gathering of 50 or more persons).
- 9. How will members and attendees practice Social Distancing?**
- All persons attending gatherings at RFBC are requested to maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet. No physical touch between individuals, i.e. no hugging, or handshaking. Greetings, waving, and fist-bumps are acceptable.
  - Persons are asked to come to worship as a household unit and to be seated as a household.
  - Worship leaders (i.e. clergy, deacons, musicians, singers, etc.) are requested to be seated with their family or household on the left side facing the stage as close as possible to the front or near the stage.
  - Prior to worship, participants going to the stage are asked to move to the green room or the dressing room to the left side of the stage.
  - From the green room, persons will move from the green room to the stage and from the stage down the steps of the stage back to their seat or to the holding area.
  - Worship leaders, participants and essential persons are required to wear gloves and masks when on duty.
- 10. Will Staff and Volunteers be trained and equipped to handle emergency situations?**
- Yes, the Health Care Ministry will be equipped and prepared to respond to medical emergency situations. However, worshippers are requested to remain seated and allow all Health Care workers, Ushers, and Safety and Security to handle the situation.
- 11. Should we bring young children to church service and will masks be required for them?**
- It is permissible to bring young children ages 2 and above, with no underlying health conditions. Masks will be required.

**12. Will there be a designated entrance and exit plan?**

- Yes, all persons entering will use the same entrance practicing social distancing. When exiting the facility, all persons seated on the right side of the stage will exit from the rear through the exit near the Parlor; and persons seated on the left side of the stage will exit from the rear through the exit near the Craft Room.

**13. How will offerings/collections be received?**

- We are requesting all donors to submit their tithes and offerings electronically through the app & website), church mailbox, US Mail, and onsite depository when entering the worship area of the Family Life Center. There will be no walking or passing of offering plates.

**14. Will volunteers be in place to sanitize frequently touched surfaces/areas?**

- Yes, volunteers will be available to sanitize high touch surfaces throughout the service. Additionally, each person is requested to clean up after themselves and their dependents.

**15. Will van transportation be provided during COVID-19? And if so, what requirements are necessary?**

- Van transportation will be provided upon request. Persons riding the van are expected to wear masks and practice social distancing when riding. Vans will be sanitized frequently throughout the pickup and drop off process. Additionally, vans will be parked on the Parlor side of the Family Life Center in the Kitchen unloading area.

**16. Will we have Sunday School and other small group activities?**

- We will continue to practice virtual learning and activities via technology until further notice.

**17. Will I be permitted to sing on the choir?**

- Because of the potential projecting of droplets from singing, choirs will not be ministering or serving during this time of COVID-19. We will continue to use small groups or soloists.

**18. Will we practice contact tracking?**

- We will practice contact tracking through signing the attendance sheet provided for each section. One person from each household is requested to sign in each family member.

**19. Will Food and Beverage be served?**

- There will be no food or beverage served during the time of COVID-19 until further notice.

**20. Will the facility be available for rental?**

- Our facilities will **NOT** be available for rental. Presently, we have cancelled all booked events until further notice.

**21. Will technology i.e. Livestream, conference calls, Zoom, etc. continue to be offered when we return to in-person worship?**

- Yes, we are planning and preparing to provide Livestream as well as virtual small groups beyond COVID-19.

**22. Will we have Children's Church?**

- Children's Church will **NOT** be offered during COVID-19, however, we will be evaluating as things progress.

**23. Will we have a summer break?**

- In the past, we have instituted a Summer Shutdown from end of June to after Labor Day. However, because of the Coronavirus, we will continue to keep persons connected through Sunday Worship and virtual offerings throughout the summer.

**24. How can we ensure that mics, musical equipment, pulpit podium, etc. are sanitized after each person uses them?**

- We will provide individual mics or mic covers will be provided for each speaking person.

**25. Will the Lord's Supper be administered when we return to in-person worship?**

- Yes, we will administer the Lord's Supper on first Sundays, using disposable bread and wine containers.

**26. Will the entire facility be open on Sundays when we return to in-person worship?**

- The only portion of the facility that will be opened for public access is the portion that will be used for worship unless we are experiencing inclement weather.

**27. What will the length of our in-person worship service be?**

- Each service will begin at 10:00 AM and conclude within 70 minutes unless captured by the Holy Spirit

**28. Will we use the same order of worship that we used prior to COVID-19?**

- Our new in-person order of worship will mirror the order that we have used during COVID-19.

**29. What will be the church's response if someone tests positive after we return to In-Person Worship?**

- The entire congregation will move into a 14-day quarantine to eliminate the spread of the virus.

**30. Will printed programs be distributed during our in-person worship?**

- Yes, programs will be distributed by being placed in each worshipper's seat prior to the service.

**31. What time will worship leaders/participants and essential persons need to be at the church?**

- All worship leaders/participants and essential persons are requested to be in place 30 minutes prior to the beginning of worship.

**32. What will be the function of the reopening team and its members when we re-open?**

- The team will be responsible for insuring that persons coming or attending each worship service or events have an excellent experience and adhere to all protocols and directive, insure that all persons are respected and cared for in a Christian and professional manner.

**33. Ministry Expectations:**

**This section will list some of the expectations of each of the essential ministries of the team:**

- a. Audio/Visual – will ensure that audio/visual equipment is in place, tested and ready for service. Additionally, this team will insure that mics are sanitized between each use.
- b. Safety and Security – will ensure that persons are parking appropriately, assisting persons with transportation needs, maintaining crowd control and securing the facility.
- c. Greeters – responsible for receiving and greeting persons in a Christian, loving and professional manner, by opening doors as persons arrive, requesting them to put masks on, sanitize as they enter the facility or have on their gloves, and directing guests to the ushers to be seated using the number system.
- d. Ushers – responsible for assisting worshippers to their seat, maintaining order, and directing persons when entering and exiting the facility. Ushers will receive persons when they are inside the worship area. Persons are encouraged to fill the front first.
- e. Health Care – responsible for assisting persons who may be experiencing medical emergencies. The Craft Room will be reserved for such emergencies.
- f. Budget Planning – responsible for collecting and securing all receivables, along with ensuring that depository is in place.

- g. Administration – responsible for producing weekly worship aids, announcements, information notification, push notifications, and ensuring that they are dispersed to in-person worshippers, app, web site, etc.
- h. Associate Ministers – responsible for assisting and leading worship and helping the pastor where needed.
- i. Deacons Ministry – responsible for leading in worship, ministering the needs of members, administering the ordinances, receiving new member information, assisting worshippers, and supporting the pastor.
- j. Van Ministry – responsible for ensuring that transportation is prepared and ready for service along with ensuring that an adequate supply of personal protection equipment is in place.
- k. Sunday School – responsible for investigating and securing an alternative time for Sunday school to be held when we return to in-person worship.
- l. Children’s Church – there will be no children’s church as we return to in-person worship. However, the children’s ministry will investigate and secure an alternative to children’s church during this period.
- m. Floral & Beautification – responsible for ensuring that florals and greenery is selected and in place to create an aesthetically pleasing environment.

Thank you in advance for your support and adherence to these protocols and directives. If there are any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us.

Pastor Simmons and RFBC Staff

mhh 8/27/2020  
mhh 9/22/2020  
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