

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH - BOWMAN SC

RE-ENTRY PROTOCOL

PROTOCOL 1. CHURCH PREPARATION

- While we recognize our churches have been empty for an extended time and the virus has limited potency after certain periods of time, **the entire church will be deep cleaned** to bring congregants peace of mind. The entire church will be deep cleaned after each worship service.
 - All **HVAC filters** (*furnace, air conditioning, air cleaner devices*) **will be replaced**.
 - The sanitize pews, bathrooms, doorknobs, light switches, and microphones will be done.
 - **Water fountains will not be utilized**. Bottled water will be available upon request.
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PROTOCOL 2. SAFETY MEASURES

- The church will be **cleaned before and after each service**.
 - We **strongly encourage every in-person service attendant to be fully vaccinated**.
 - If you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms in the 10 days leading up to the service, or if you have been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID—19 within the last 14 days before the service, we ask you to please not attend the service.
 - The practice of **Temperature Checks** at the entrance to the facility prior to a worship service is required. Temperature checks are to be conducted with **non-contact thermometers**.
 - All persons attending in-person worship services **MUST wear a Mask over the nose and mouth throughout the entire service**, including clergy and other service participants, when not actually engaged in leading the service. **It is recommended that people bring their own mask**, but masks will be on hand for those who do not have one.
 - **No-Touch Hand Sanitizers Stands** will be stationed at the entrance and exits of the church.
 - Ushers will guide congregants to maintain **6 feet of social distancing** and safe practices in the facilities and designated worship space.
 - Social distancing requirements dramatically reduce the seating capacity of worship and fellowship spaces (**50% of pre-COVID-19 seating**). For example, to maintain a **6 foot distance between** households in the sanctuary, every other pew or row of chairs should be empty. Each pew or row should be no more than **half-filled**.
 - Church leaders will determine the seating capacity for social distancing.
 - **Families who live in the same household should sit together**.
 - There will be **no childcare or nursery** until we are further along in our re-entry process. If you are comfortable, please bring your children to worship with you. Our diaper changing stations will not be available. If your child has that need, we ask that you return to your car and take care of your child before returning to worship.
 - **Contingency plans for overflow crowd** beyond the approved number of people in the sanctuary may be implemented. Outdoor broadcast speakers and seating in the Rear Fellowship Hall and/or the Community Family Life Center are options to be considered.
 - **Online streaming** on Facebook and YouTube are worship tools the Church will attempt to provide for those who are high-risk and cannot join in person services.
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PROTOCOL 3. WORSHIP COMPONENTS

Service Time

- The service time will be 8:30 a.m. or as announced beforehand. **Congregants are asked to be on time, so screening and seating can take place.**
- While it does not feel good to turn people away, everyone may not be able to attend. **Once the seating capacity is reached, the doors will be closed.**
- The services will generally last **one (1) hour.**

Flow of Traffic

- Congregants will **enter only** through the church front doors only and **exit only** through the two (2) sanctuary side doors one family at a time.
- Gathering and congregating after service is not allowed.
- A roster of the names of all persons in **attendance** will be kept for tracing purposes.

Logistics

- **Microphones-** Members and worship leaders should not pass or share microphones at any time. Wind screens will be replaced and sanitization of microphones will take place after each service.
- **Bulletins –** There will be no printed bulletin. The order of the service and announcements will be verbally and/or electronically shared.
- **Bibles and Hymnals –** There will be no bibles or hymnals in the pews to avoid the touching and spread of germs. Congregants are encouraged to bring their own bibles. Words of songs may be displayed from monitors.
- **Entrances/Exits/Hallways -** Congregants will be allowed entrance and be dismissed in an orderly way to ensure social distancing. Doors will be propped open, or one person will open doors for those entering/exiting. All door handles will be sanitized before and after gatherings.
- **Greeting Each Other –** Always maintain social distancing practices at all times. No contact greetings (*no shaking hands or hugs*).
- **Offering –** Envelops can be obtained as congregants enter the sanctuary. The Church will receive tithes and offerings with a box in established places as they enter or exit. **Online giving is encouraged for those able to do so.**

Music Ministry and Congregational Singing

- **The Praise Team** will lead in worship music. Social distancing will be practiced.
- If **congregational singing** takes place, masks are absolutely necessary and should be worn during singing.

Restroom Facilities

Only the front sanctuary restroom will be made available for use. After entering the sanctuary, exiting to use the restroom is discouraged, except only for emergencies, to eliminate unnecessary movement during the service. Only one person should utilize the restroom at a time. Each person is asked to sanitize after usage by spraying disinfectant spray and washing their hands.

Communion

Congregants will be provided **pre-packaged Communion Elements** as they enter the sanctuary. The used cups will be disposed of in a waste can, by congregants, as they exit the sanctuary.

Baptisms

At this time, the pastor will not perform baptisms on any person regardless of age.

Funerals

At this time, we are recommending that memorial services and services of death and resurrection be held at the presiding funeral home rather than the local church campus. Funeral homes must comply with guidelines beyond the scope of the MZBC Re-Entry Guidelines. It is important to follow all guidelines for wearing masks, social distancing, singing, and other worship guidelines. Please follow all guidelines for sanitation and social distancing

Facility Use

- **We will not have Sunday Soul Food Ministry** (*Sunday school*) at this time on the campus. We are encouraging all classes to meet online at a time that is convenient for them.
- **Church ministries on the church campus are only permitted to meet if absolutely necessary.** Permission must be obtained from the Pastor and Church Re-entry Team. If permission is granted, the established worship guidelines must be followed.
- **No Community groups** will utilize the church building or meet on the church property, unless they the meet the approval of the Pastor and Church Re-entry Team. All groups need to adequately plan to ensure that each participant has a circle of 6 feet around them for best practice. Small groups will meet in larger rooms than they normally meet in to ensure that they can meet these guidelines.
- Additionally, the Church sanitation team will be required to clean spaces before and after use. Church Re-entry Team will limit and specify what spaces are available for use.

Food and Meals

- For the foreseeable future, food, beverages, and shared dinners/receptions must be avoided.
 - Touching serving utensils and movement along a food line is extremely contagious.
 - Catered, plated dinners with servers may be considered for some meals. This minimizes improper distancing and contact with surfaces and utensils.
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COVID-19 HEALTH SCREENING

Are you experiencing the following symptoms?

According to the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Resurgence and Outbreaks

This “new normal” will continue for the foreseeable future until there are recommendations from the CDC, Health Care Professionals, and Government officials. Of course, the ultimate decision on resuming church activities as they were conducted **pre-COVID-19** will be determined by the Church leadership.

- The Church will continue to offer online worship and discipleship, and be prepared for resuming online-only worship should there be a resurgence of **COVID-19** in our state or in your community.
- Should a **COVID-19** case be confirmed in the church setting, local health departments will be notified and contact tracing and possible quarantine of congregants may occur.

If you have experienced any of the above symptoms, please contact your health care provider and self-quarantine until you receive further direction by your physician.