

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

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Strategic Reopening Plan

I. Scaling Up Operations

- St. Paul will establish and maintain communication with local and State authorities to determine current mitigation levels in your community, i.e. infection percentage.
- St. Paul will provide protections for staff and congregants at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Offer options for staff at higher risk for severe illness (including older adults and people of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions) that limit their exposure risk. Offer options for congregants at higher risk of severe illness that limit their exposure risk (e.g., remote seating in chapel area allowing participation in all services).
- Consistent with applicable federal and State laws and regulations, put in place policies that protect the privacy and confidentiality of people at higher risk for severe illness regarding underlying medical conditions.
- Demand that any organizations that share or use the facilities of St. Paul MB Church to also follow all considerations as applicable.

II. Promote healthy hygiene practices

- Encourage staff and congregants to maintain good hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- St. Paul will have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for those who can safely use hand sanitizer), tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Encourage staff and congregants to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed.
- In areas where soap and water are not readily available, St. Paul will provide access to hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- St. Paul will post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and how to promote everyday protective measures, such as washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and properly wearing a masks.

II. Masks

- When worshipping or meeting in the walls of St. Paul the use of masks among staff and congregants is a must.

***Note: Masks should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. Masks are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

IV. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation

- St. Paul will clean and disinfect after all meetings and/or services as often as these functions occur.
- St. Paul will develop and maintain a schedule of increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
- St. Paul will avoid use of items that are not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected.
- St. Paul will ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep them away from children.
- Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.
- St. Paul will ensure that ventilation/AC systems operate properly and increase circulation.
- St. Paul will attempt to add space between multiple services, to ensure time for proper cleaning.

V. Promote social distancing

- St. Paul will take steps to limit the size of gatherings in accordance with the guidance and directives of state CDC.
- St. Paul will use social distancing techniques at all services and other gatherings, ensuring that clergy, staff, choir, volunteers and attendees at the services follow social distancing, wearing masks and using hand sanitizers.

- St. Paul will consider holding events and gatherings in as outdoor areas, as circumstances.
- St. Paul will enforce appropriate mitigation measures, including taking steps to limit the size of gatherings maintaining social distancing, at other gatherings such as funerals, weddings, religious education classes, youth events, support groups and any other programming, where consistent with our faith St. Paul traditions.
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or walkways and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating “one-way routes” in hallways).

VI. Take steps to minimize community sharing of worship materials and other items

- St. Paul will limit the sharing of frequently touched objects, such as microphones, bibles, hymnals, and bulletins. St Pal will also encourage congregants to bring their own bibles and not share things within the sanctuary, when possible.
- Modify the methods used to receive financial contributions. Consider a stationary collection box, and continue with electronic methods of collection ie, Givlify, over the phone and website, instead of shared collection trays or baskets.
- St. Paul will refrain from physical contact (e.g., shaking hands, hugging, etc...).
- When food is offered at any event, consider pre-packaged options, and avoid buffet or family-style meals if possible.

