



**Sanctuary Utilization
Guidelines during COVID-19**
Ebenezer Baptist Church
Beaverdam, VA

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to the members and followers of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Beaverdam VA, on the utilization of the buildings and resources during the Commonwealth of Virginia's COVID-19

Road to Recovery. This document is modified to provide maximum safety, security, and spiritual comfort for our congregation. This document is grounded in the recommendations and regulations of the Phase 1-5 recovery process set forth by the Commonwealth of VA and the Federal Center for Disease Control.

Phase 4

In-door Worship Service

In-door worship services will be considered during Phase 4 of the Re-entry Process. This will not occur until after January 1, 2022. The decision shall be made after consultation with the Trustee Board, Senior Pastor, and designated members of the Phasing Committee. The Trustees shall continue the oversight and management of the Phasing process.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, EBC shall employ the following safety regulations:

All safety precautions mentioned in Phase 1-3, in addition to:

- Church attendance shall not be capped. High risk members are encouraged to remain at home; and continue virtual/teleconference services.
 - Virtual/teleconference worship services will be available as well as in-person worship services with all persons attending adhering to recommended safety guidelines outlined in this document.
 - Virtual/teleconference Bible studies as well as in-person Bible study. All persons attending should adhere to recommended safety guidelines outlined in this document.
 - Virtual/teleconference groups or meetings recommended; limited in-person meetings, adhering to safety guidelines
 - We will continue with outdoor gatherings – i.e. Church in the field
 - In-person contactless visitation with adherence to all recommended safety guidelines aforementioned in this document.
 - Removal of hymnals, fans, bibles, and envelopes from all pews and no paper bulletins will be distributed
 - Use of pre-recorded music and when employing live music there shall be social distancing.
- Microphones cannot be shared, and all choir members must maintain 6ft. distance apart. Facial masks are recommended. The church's Minister of Music or his/her designee shall be responsible for oversight of these guidelines.

- All congregants shall maintain 6 ft. distance apart while seated unless they are in the same clan.
- Inside doors will remain open for ventilation
- Staggered group gatherings (at least 3 days, recommended) to allow for sanitizing between gatherings.
- Adjusted offering collection and Communion for sanitation
- No indoor afternoon services due to mandatory CDC guidelines of a thorough cleaning, prior to/following religious services.
- Touch-free environments whenever possible (e.g., doors propped open, automatic hand sanitizer, touchless flushing, etc.)
- No food will be served inside the facilities, due to increased difficulty maintaining safety and hygiene
- Limited children's activities due to the difficulty of employing physical and social distancing (pre-approval via Meeting Space Request Form and signed parental or guardian permission form)

Guidelines for this phase shall be determined by the Trustee board, Senior Pastor, and designated members of the Phasing Committee. This is because it is difficult to predict what the new normal may include.

Sanitizing and Cleaning

The Custodial staff shall purchase, maintain an inventory, and ensure availability of sanitizing and cleaning supplies throughout the church. The purchasing and availability of supplies will support the safety and wellbeing of church members, ministries and outside vendors who are utilizing the church facilities. The supplies shall include but are not limited to:

- Hand Sanitizer, Family size of larger
- Disinfectant Wipes, Family size of larger
- Gloves, Medium and large, Latex and nonlatex
- One time use face Masks
- Disinfectant cleaner (Non-Bleach)

● Touchless Thermometers Sanitizing supplies shall be displayed in the following areas:

- Main Sanctuary (pulpit area, back table)
- All Bathrooms throughout the church
- Vestibule and connected rooms
- Trustee Room
- Sunday School Rooms
- Throughout the Fellowship Hall
- Old Sanctuary

Only the EBC Trustee Board in consultation with the Senior Pastor and Phasing Committee designee have the authority to amend or terminate any sections of this document.

Note: Singing and playing wind instruments are considered to be high risk activities for unvaccinated individuals due to the increased number of respiratory droplets and aerosols that may contain the COVID-19 virus if a person is infected.