



# GUIDEBOOK FOR WELCOMING THE CHURCH BACK TO PHYSICAL GATHERINGS

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## INTRODUCTION

Although our facilities have been closed, the Church of Jesus Christ is always open. We have seen God work in powerful ways over the past few months at Crossbridge Church. Our church has expanded its reach through our digital platforms. We have been able to prioritize tithes and offerings to meet real needs (over \$10k distributed). We have set up two food distribution centers at our Miami Springs and Brickell campuses to meet the hunger needs of our city. We have heard stories of how God has challenged and grown your faith during this season.

The reality of the global pandemic of COVID-19 has made us recalibrate how we provide opportunities for worship and our meetings as a community in wise and prudent ways for the greater protection and care of our members and guests. We emphasize that BOTH faith and wisdom be employed for the benefit of our brothers and sisters, the testimony of the Church, and the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

We offer this handbook of guidelines for welcoming you back to physical gatherings at your campus. Please note, each Crossbridge campus may contextualize this manual to the realities of its context, therefore be on the lookout for specific, additional instructions from your campus.

As federal and state ordinances are shifting from quarantine to relaunching businesses and communities, it is imperative to understand that the world has changed significantly. The Church has also recalibrated, regarding how we worship, equip, and most of all, how we make disciples during this pandemic. However, we remain the Church, and as such our Crossbridge Task Force has worked to create this relaunch guide to reopen the doors of our facilities. If conditions and regulations change over the coming weeks or months we will adjust, and inform you of any changes.

We understand that some of the required guidelines outlined below you may personally disagree with. However, after doing extensive research and surveys within our congregation we believe this outlined plan serves not only the health and safety of our congregation, but also maintains a spirit of peace. We ask that you accept these guidelines for the sake of unity. If this plan will affect your ability to meaningfully worship at the physical gathering, then we encourage you to continue joining us for church online. We are going to continue the same excellent and engaging service through at least the middle of August each and every Sunday.

## HYGIENE, CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

### General Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols

- Facilities will be thoroughly cleaned after every use.
- All high-touch surfaces such as tables, doors, light switches, desks, telephones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc... will be disinfected with EPA-registered disinfectants.
- We will put up posters on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 around the facilities.

### Maintaining Healthy Operations

- Hand sanitizing stations will be installed at all entrances of our campus and / or we will have hand sanitizer available in key areas of the facilities.
- We will have non-contact garbage cans: (1) they will be automatic or otherwise - (2) remain open - to reduce the spread of germs.
- We will have touchless soap dispensers in the bathrooms

## CONTACT PROTOCOLS

We will mitigate the risk of transmitting COVID-19 wisely and graciously by social distancing and mitigating physical contact until further notice:

- We will require the use of masks in all meetings and when they are in the facilities by everyone except minor children 2 years and under. (Only the individuals on the stage will temporarily remove their masks, maintaining social distancing, for better voice projection.)
- We will limit the size of the meetings according to the guidelines and directives of the state and local authorities (6 feet of distance between each home nucleus (“household”)). This includes weddings, funerals, and any other public events.
- We will greet each other from 6 feet away without physical contact or with an elbow bump or toe tap.
- We will not offer or distribute food, except if they are prepackaged or if they follow CDC protocols.
- Children cannot be left alone without parental supervision / guardians.
- High Traffic areas will have a flow route clearly marked out by tape
- Volunteers will use gloves at all times.

## Monitoring & Surveillance

- We encourage any staff and congregant who feels ill to stay at home. If you feel ill or have any COVID-19 like symptoms, please seek medical advice or assistance.
- We encourage anyone who is over the age of 65, immunocompromised, or uncomfortable gathering at this time to remain home and join our online service.
- If you attend one of our services and test positive for COVID-19 please notify our staff. We will protect your privacy, however, this is essential for our church to notify and protect those who may have attended service with you and been exposed.
- We will notify local health officials if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been to the facility. We will communicate with staff and congregants about potential exposure while maintaining confidentiality as required by the *American Disabilities Act (ADA)*.
- We will ask that people exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 stay home, self-monitor and follow CDC instructions if symptoms develop.
- We will close the areas used by a sick person and will not use that area until after cleaning and disinfecting it. We will wait 48 hours to clean and disinfect that area to reduce the risk to the cleaning team.
- We will ask staff and congregants who have been exposed or are ill not to return to the facilities until they have met the CDC criteria: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

## WORSHIP GATHERINGS

### Seating Arrangements

We will adjust how and where people sit in order to encourage the required physical/social distancing:

- We ask that families arrive early so that we can accommodate them in their seats before services.
- Once you arrive at the parking lot, follow the usher's instructions regarding entrance and exit.
- Families will wait until ushers accommodate the family units inside.
- Every other row of seats will be unused or seats will be spaced apart, distancing one family from the next with six feet of distance.
- We will accommodate the maximum number of people possible inside our facilities keeping within the limits of social distancing. Once the sanctuary is full, families may choose to do the following:
  - Be accommodated in the overflow room (for congregations with such a space).
  - Wait until the next service (they will be the next in line to be accommodated).

### Communion

Prepackaged communion elements will be provided, but we will also encourage families to bring their own.

### Offering

We will modify the methods used to receive financial contributions by placing a fixed collection box in the lobby (supervised by ushers) - we continue to encourage electronic donations.

### Pastoral Care

We will continue to offer pastoral care through conference calls or virtual conferences. Requests can be made by emailing or by calling your Campus Pastor.

## SUNDAY PRE-RECORDED SERVICE

We will continue to provide an excellent pre-recorded service streamed via Facebook, YouTube, or Livestream every Sunday until at least the middle of August.

- When we discontinue the pre-recorded service we will stream our Sunday service live for everyone still joining us digitally for worship. Our online presence will continue to be a focus for the future, and we will work toward improvements to maintain an excellent and engaging digital worship environment.

## KIDS MINISTRY

We will continue to provide an excellent pre-recorded Bridge Kids Experience streamed via Facebook, YouTube, or the website every Sunday.

- We will wait to welcome back Kids Ministry until the Fall semester of school physically resumes.
- If for whatever reason school remains virtual in the Fall semester, an adjustment to the Kids Ministries welcome back date may be necessary.

## PHASES FOR REOPENING

Phase	Action	Date
1	Weekly physical worship services will reopen (without high risk people).	Tentative July 5th
2	Kids ministry estimated to reopen.	End of August