

# Re-Entry Plan for Indianola First UMC

Based on the Iowa Annual Conference Recommended Plan for reentry

## Three Phases for Re-Entry

Phase 3: **Red Light Status:** Stop all non-critical gatherings; essential workers only. (We are in the "Red Light" status until at least June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.)

Phase 2: **Yellow Light Status:** Cautionary Return. We anticipate this will cover a number of months depending on the progress of the Covid-19 virus. This means a gradual return to gatherings and doing so in a cautionary manner.

Phase 1: **Green Light Status:** The virus is contained and everyone in our community is reasonably safe.

## Protocols for Each Phase

### Phase 3 Protocols (At least until June 28, 2020)

**Key Focus: Stop all non-critical gatherings & essential workers only.**

#### **Worship**

- Online Worship Only
- Worship teams and essential staff are to maintain proper physical distances of 6-10 feet.
- All groups must be less than 10 people with physical distance. All church meetings are online.
- Life rituals (weddings, funerals) should be kept to less than 10 in attendance.
- Other organizations using the church must follow best practices for sanitation and safety.

#### **Church Preparation for Eventual Return - custodial staff and volunteers**

- Deep clean church.
- Spruce up the church.
- Post best practice signs.
- Communicate what the church is doing and how it is preparing for people's return.

#### **Church Finances**

- Encourage online giving and mail giving options.

## **Phase 2 Protocols (After June 28th, or when the Ad Council deems it safe enough.)**

**Key Focus: Safe in person Sunday worship begins. Online worship continues.**

### **Worship**

- **Restart of Sunday worship adjustments will be made to service times and number of services as needed to maintain safety.** We will begin with a single service in the sanctuary, time TBA. We will add a second service when attendance warrants. For virus safety worship services can be no closer together than three hours apart or in different locations to minimize transmission of the virus through the air per conference recommendations.
- There will be no Wednesday evening activities or worship during this phase. The restart of Wednesday activities, classes, and worship will be evaluated as we move through the yellow phase towards the green phase.
- Streaming worship will continue for those who do not feel comfortable attending in person
- It is strongly recommended that persons over the age of 60 consider remaining at home and watching the online streaming worship.
- A team will help our custodian sanitize pews between services.
- Services will be reduced to 45 minutes to allow for more time for preparation between services.
- NO Coffee Fellowship Time as we begin this phase. Restarting the Coffee Fellowship to be evaluated as we progress through the yellow phase
- NO Bus pickup during the beginning of the yellow phase to be evaluated as we move closer to the green phase

### **Requirements for those leading and attending worship**

- Wear face masks
  - Singing can project the virus so there will be no congregational singing allowed.
  - Church staff will wear masks except when leading worship in the chancel
  - The church will endeavor to make masks available for those who do not have a mask
- Offering Baptisms
  - Baptisms will be by pouring. Infants will be held by a parent, all adults will wear masks. The pastor will pour a small amount of water in such a way that they do not have any physical contact with the candidate or the water.
- Communion/Eucharist
  - Those distributing elements must wear gloves and mask.
  - Communion will be distributed with individual cups and cut pieces of bread
  - Safe distancing practices will be maintained
  - Online communion will still be offered
- No-touch best practices
  - Offering plate will not be passed. Baskets/plates will be available at the sanctuary entrance.

- Remove hymnals & pew Bibles and other items from pews. Removal of pew cushions.
- Bulletins will not be used during this phase to avoid contamination
- Sanitizer will be made available and sanctuary entrances
- Encourage each person to sanitize their hands upon entering worship and as needed.
- Distancing
  - Have physically distanced in the sanctuary space and fellowship area.
  - Continue encouraging people to leave the building rather than mingling.
- Parking
  - It is strongly recommended that parishioners maintain social distancing while parking and returning to parked cars. We should resist the urge to mingle after worship for the safety of all involved.

### **Small Groups and Faith Formation**

- Small groups, Bible studies, and Sunday School will not be meeting in person during the beginning of this phase this phase. The meeting of small groups during the yellow phase will be continually evaluated based on the increased safety for members as the yellow phase moves closer to the green phase.
- It is still recommended that committees continue to meet online.
  - Any committee that chooses to meet in person should maintain all the appropriate social distancing guidelines and provide an online option for anyone over 60 or persons who do not feel comfortable being physically present

### **Church Office and Staff**

- Regular office functions will resume while maintaining physical distancing, wearing masks when appropriate and following safety and sanitizing protocols.
- Members are still encouraged to do business with the staff via phone or email as much as possible to avoid physical contact.

### **Finances**

- For some time encouraging online and mail giving for those who cannot attend will be very important. The ministries and costs for the church continue during the pandemic.

## **Phase 1 Green Light Status**

### **Key Focus: Celebration**

- Give people hope and celebrate the importance of our community of faith.
- Look back and celebrate the victories and progress in ministry.
- Challenge the church to remain experimental, flexible, and nimble.
- Continue online worship as a new tool for outreach and ministry.
- Learn and grow from our experiences during the pandemic.
- Plan for the future God has for our church and community.

*As we shift from **Phase 2** to **Phase 1**, know the timeline will be guided by ongoing evaluation of the situation across the state of Iowa. You should anticipate and lead toward several weeks (and possibly months) of **Phase 2 Status** as we monitor and respond to improving conditions and markers that need to be met before we shift from **Phase 2: Yellow Status** to **Phase 1: Green Status**.*

Best practices for sanitation found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>