

# FBCT Plan for “Re-Opening”

The following present minimum standard health protocols we will be putting into place as we work to re-open First Baptist Church Terrell for gatherings. These protocols come from our state officials, based on input and guidance from strike force members, including those in the medical and infectious disease fields.

One of the great dangers of COVID-19 is that it can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Such a person can spread the disease without knowing it, which can present serious and even fatal consequences for others. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices in these protocols.

This is key to facilitating a safe and measured re-opening of our church, as well as our community and state. The COVID-19 virus is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable, which includes a person 65 or older, especially those with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk.

We must also acknowledge that many of these practices are not “natural” to us. We will have to be intentional to consistently put them into practice, and in grace and love, remind others to do the same.

*“As we open Texas, we are each called upon to be Texans: to act responsibly as we re-engage in the economy, to continue following all health precautions and sanitizing guidelines, and to care for our vulnerable neighbors. Lives depend on our actions. I know you will respond as Texans.”*  
– Governor Greg Abbott

## **FBCT Planned Timeline - Initial Steps:**

### **Sunday, May 3**

FBCT “re-opens” with a “soft-start,” having one worship service at 10:30 a.m. Those 65 and up, others in at-risk populations, as well as families with young children are strongly encouraged to stay home and watch online on Facebook Live or LiveStream, or listen on the radio (KPYK 102.5 FM/1570 AM). Our Nursery will remain closed at this time.

### **Week of May 3**

Ministries involving limited numbers of people may resume meeting, provided all protocol practices are followed. This can include D-Groups, Celebrate Recovery, Faithful and Fit, and similar. This does not include Sunday School classes or LifeGroups at this time, nor choir. We will work to resume these at a later date.

### **Monday, May 4**

Church office re-opens to normal schedule of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, with closure from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch. However, we encourage communication with office staff in ways that do not require physically coming to the office; use of phone calls, text, email, etc. If you must visit the office, please observe protocol practices, including the use of a face-covering mask and hand-sanitizing as you enter. Sanitizer stations have been installed in all primary entry areas.

### **Sunday, May 10 (Mother’s Day)**

“Soft Re-Open” week 2 for worship at 10:30 a.m. Online worship and Sunday School/ LifeGroup continue.

### **Sunday, May 17 (Tentative)**

Two worship services offered; 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The early service is for those 65 and up and others in at-risk populations who desire and are comfortable attending. We ask others in

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our church family to allow this time for this group to help control potential exposure that may come from younger persons who may be more prone to carry the virus with minimal or no symptoms. Those who prefer to remain home and watch online are strongly encouraged to do so or listen by radio.

## **Minimum Standard Health Protocols for Re-starting Worship Services:**

1. At this time, at-risk populations are strongly encouraged to watch or participate in worship services remotely using online broadcasts or radio, rather than attending in-person.
2. When two worship services are offered, tentatively beginning May 17, those 65 and up and other at-risk populations are strongly encouraged to attend the early service as a time dedicated for them to help limit exposure to younger people whose health may allow them to carry the virus with fewer symptoms. Those who prefer to watch online are still strongly encouraged to do so.
3. Proper spacing must be maintained between attendees. This includes:
  - a. Keeping at least two empty seats, or six feet of separation, between people/parties in any row, except as follows:
    - Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet of separation) empty on either side.
    - Two individuals who are not members of the same household but who are attending together can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet of separation) empty on either side.
  - b. Alternating rows between attendees (every other row is to be left empty).

## **Health Protocols for FBCT Facilities:**

We will strive to maintain environmental cleanliness and good hygiene by:

1. Regularly and frequently cleaning and disinfecting any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, handles, door crash-bars, tables, chairs, water fountains, and restrooms (toilets & seats, handles, faucets, towel dispensers).
2. Disinfecting seating between services.
3. Making hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available.
4. Having attendees for gatherings wear face covering masks (over nose and mouth) in consideration of protecting themselves and others, as well as sanitizing hands upon entry to the facility.
5. Placing readily visible signage to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.
6. Rigorously reminding and encouraging attendees to practice cough etiquette, cleanliness, and other sanitation practices before, during, and after all gatherings.
7. If providing meals for employees, volunteers, or attendees, meals must be individually packed for each employee, volunteer, or attendee.
8. Maintaining rigorous sanitation practices like disinfection, handwashing, and cleanliness when preparing or serving anything edible.

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## **Health Protocols for Employees and Volunteers:**

1. All employees and volunteers are to be trained on appropriate cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
2. Employees and volunteers are to be screened before coming into the church facilities.
  - a. Any employee or volunteer who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19 are to be sent home:
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Chills
    - Repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - Loss of taste or smell
    - Diarrhea
    - Feeling feverish or measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
    - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
  - b. Employees or volunteers with the new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above are not to be allowed to return to work/service until:
    - In the case of an employee or volunteer who was diagnosed with COVID-19, when all three of the following criteria are met:
      - at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
      - the individual has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
      - at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
    - In the case of an employee or volunteer who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
    - If the employee or volunteer has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.
  - c. An employee or volunteer with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 is not to be allowed to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure.
  - d. Employees and volunteers are to wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the facility. Sanitizer stations are provided near all primary entry points.

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- e. Employees and volunteers are to maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals to the greatest extent feasible during daily operations.
- f. Employees and volunteers are to wear face covering masks (over the nose and mouth) when gathering with others.
- g. Hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.