

# EAST SIDE

## POINTS OF INFORMATION FOR REOPENING

## STAGE 1 - RETURNING JUNE 7, 2020

CORPORATE WORSHIP	ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 AND SERVICE STREAMED
CONNECT GROUPS	ONLINE, OUTDOORS, NOT IN ROOMS ON CAMPUS
CHILDCARE	NOT AVAILABLE IN STAGE 1
KIDS WORSHIP	NOT AVAILABLE IN STAGE 1
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS	NO ACTIVITIES IN STAGE 1
LINK COFFEE SHOP	CLOSED DURING STAGE 1
VULNERABLE GROUP *	ENCOURAGED TO WORSHIP OFF CAMPUS
FACE MASKS - 10 & UP	MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES IN BUILDING
PHYSICAL DISTANCING	6 FEET AT ALL TIMES - ENTERING, GATHERING, ETC.
HANDICAPPED ENTRY	PRE-SCHOOL ENTRANCE OR NORTH ENTRANCE
BUILDING ENTRANCES	MAIN OFFICE AND NORTH ENTRANCES ONLY
ENTRANCE LINES	ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL ENTER THROUGH LINES
EXIT PROTOCOLS	INDIVIDUAL DISMISSAL AT THE END OF SERVICE
PHYSICAL INTERACTION	NO PHYSICAL INTERACTION PERMITTED AT ALL
OFFERING	ONLINE / MAIL / DROP BOX / SANCTUARY BOXES
NEXT STEPS MINISTRY	CONNECTION THROUGH TEXT AND ONLINE
CRY/CHANGING ROOM	NOT AVAILABLE IN STAGE 1
SERVICE REGISTRATION	MUST REGISTER THROUGH EVENTBRITE
KID'S MINISTRY PACKS	MADE AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES UPON ENTRY

\* VULNERABLE PEOPLE GROUP IS CLARIFIED AT [HTTPS://WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV/OPENINGAMERICA/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/) - LOCATED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WEBPAGE

Here we are church family and friends – we’ve made it to the point where we can reopen our campus and begin the process of returning to corporate worship gatherings. While we are thankful for a Governor and a President who sees this as very important, we as a ministry also see this in a very important light. Just this week, we saw two churches engage the COVID-19 challenge on our doorstep here in Fort Smith. Even under great guidelines and intentional follow through, we understand that a virus isn’t a respecter of buildings, religions, race, age, or stages of preparation. With that in mind, we have been given [clear mitigation strategies by the Arkansas Department of Health](#) as to how we can most safely open our campus back up for corporate worship gatherings. You can see the graphic above giving baseline details, and this document is the supporting information that will help further define how that information is going to come to fruition in the days ahead.

As with everything, we will do our best to explain things as clearly as we can, but the best tool to combat fear, anxiety, or worry about returning to worship in person is to have an honest conversation with yourself and your family and then make an informed decision. If you need more information about how things are going to work here at the church on Sunday, please just pick up a phone and call during office hours (479-452-1481) or send me an email ([matt@myeastside.tv](mailto:matt@myeastside.tv)). We want your family above all to remain engaged in fellowship and worship with our church during this season.

Beginning in June, being engaged at East Side can happen in two different environments (online and in-person), and you are the only one who can make the best decision for you. These guidelines are here to clearly identify the expectations we will have of those who intend on attending in person during Stage One of the reopening of our campus. I hope these will give you greater clarity and understanding so that you can make the decision that is best for you and your family as we look forward to returning to corporate worship and gathering as a body of believers over the weeks and months ahead.

- Pastor Matt Bonnett  
Executive Pastor of Operations and Worship  
May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **CORPORATE WORSHIP:**

Our corporate worship services will begin at 10:30am and will be held initially in the sanctuary worship center only. Additionally, we will continue to stream our service through Facebook live and Youtube with a start time of 10:30am. The doors for this service will open at 10am so that people can begin to arrive in a manner that spaces out individuals and family groups. This service will need Eventbrite.com registration to attend (see below for further information) and we will make accommodations for guests that are unable to register or do not have access to our registration website. See below for further instruction and encouragement for attending these services.

### **CONNECT GROUPS:**

Connect groups are free to meet online and outdoors while maintaining proper physical distancing. Under our current guidelines, we are unable to allow our Connect Groups to meet within rooms on campus due to physical distancing guidelines. We are thankful for creative ways our Connect Groups are maintaining fellowship and encouragement between each other in this very unique season. For more possible opportunities for Connect Groups, please contact Pastor Chad Mann (Executive Pastor of Ministry and Missions) for more information at [Chad@myeastside.tv](mailto:Chad@myeastside.tv)

### **CHILDCARE:**

Childcare (referencing the care of children from birth through kindergarten) will not be available in Stage One as the physical distancing guidelines for our ministry make it extremely difficult to keep children properly physically distanced. Currently, we are working with our governing authorities and with our ALC ministry to better prepare for childcare in Stage Two so that we can safely and confidently care for children (and their associated families) that are engaged in this ministry. For Stage One, all children will be with families and seated together in the sanctuary when attending.

### **KIDS WORSHIP:**

Kids Worship is a dynamically engaging ministry provided for children between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Because of our physical distancing guidelines, we will not provide this ministry in Stage One. We are currently considering, researching, and testing numerous ways to make this

ministry engaging in Stage Two while also following the guidelines given to us by our governing authorities.

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:**

Wednesday Night activities for all ages will not take place during Stage One. Further clarification on when we can resume specific activities with different groups will be provided in future stages of reopening our campus.

### **LINK COFFEE SHOP:**

Our LINK Coffee shop is a great place to grab some coffee before heading to your connect group or to corporate worship. During Stage One of our campus reopening, our LINK will be closed so that we may follow the guidelines given by our governing authorities. In future stages, we hope to reopen aspects of the LINK with limited physical interaction and common points of contact from person to person. During Stage One, please feel free to bring your own coffee or water while on campus and throw that trash away upon exiting.

### **VULNERABLE PEOPLE GROUP:**

The Vulnerable people group is described very clearly by the White House in conjunction with the CDC as having the following characteristics:

- Elderly Individuals
- Individuals with underlying health conditions such as
  - o High Blood Pressure
  - o Chronic Lung Disease
  - o Diabetes
  - o Obesity
  - o Asthma
  - o Those with compromised immune systems due to chemotherapy or other such immunosuppressant conditions

(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/> located at the bottom of the web page)

It is highly encouraged by our health community at large that if you fall into any of these categories that you strongly consider attending our services online and not in person. While we will be taking all the precautions we possibly can to keep our attenders safe, those with these conditions might still be at risk simply by being among others in the public sphere.

### **FACE MASKS – 10 YEARS OLD AND UP:**

Entering Stage One of the reopening of our church campus, face masks will be required to be worn at all times in the building for those age 10 and above. A proper face covering will cover your mouth and nose and stay in place during normal activities. While we understand that this may hinder your ability to interact as you normally would, this precaution is one that the Department of Health has been very clear about concerning the well-being of our community and those who will be attending alongside you. If wearing a face covering while in the building is too difficult or restrictive for you or for members of your family then please enjoy the freedom of worshipping with us online from the safety of your home. While in our facility we

want all of our attendees to wear masks at all times and be diligent in keeping them on until they exit the facility during our Stage One guidelines.

### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:**

Our current guidelines for physical distancing in Stage One are strict 6 foot distances between individuals or family groups. This includes in service, standing in line to enter the campus, and upon exiting. While you are seated in the sanctuary, we would ask that you remain where our safety team has seated you as they have spent a great deal of time properly preparing the sanctuary for your arrival and making sure that you are properly physically distanced so as to meet the guidelines given to houses of worship by our Department of Health. While this seems incredibly restrictive, it will be relaxed in Stages Two and Three when we have cleared proper thresholds as a state. For our initial stage though, we would ask that you be extremely mindful of this when on campus and in our facility by following the guideline posted here.

### **HANDICAPPED ENTRY:**

We want to make sure that those with a disability are still able to access our campus during this unique season. With this in mind, those arriving on the south side (main parking lot) of our campus needing wheelchair access, we would direct you to our pre-school entry under the overhang drive through. For those using the north side, please use our primary north door entrance as it is equipped with wheelchair access upon entry. Please plan accordingly and arrive with your registration as a family upon your entrance if possible.

### **BUILDING ENTRANCES:**

During Stage One, we will utilize two entrances on our campus. The first will be our primary entry which is at our main office doors (4 door entry on the south side of our office parking lot). The second will be our north entry doors (4 door entry on the north side of the long and slim parking lot). Both doors will have attendants that will verify that you have your mask, are aware of the guidelines for entering the building (as directed by the signs posted at each entry), and will point you to the next point of contact all the way into the sanctuary. We will have entry doors open in all circumstances for you and there will be individuals attending those doors to minimize contact transmission of germs.

### **ENTRANCE LINES:**

Our entrance lines will be on both sides of the building and serve to keep us physically distanced as we prepare to enter the worship facility. Please be aware of your space if you are with your family and assist us with maintaining that 6-foot distance between other family groups or individuals as you proceed to the entrance. The purpose of these entrance lines are to keep a large number of people from gathering in a single location at a single time. This assists us with following through on the guidelines given to us by our governing authorities. If we happen to have rain, we will direct people to our covered entrances and assist with further communication as we approach that time.

### **EXIT PROTOCOLS:**

As we conclude our service, we will dismiss people in small groups as directed by the safety team members in the sanctuary. The goal again here is to keep large groups from gathering at a single location in the facility. As you receive direction at your seat, you will exit the doors you came in through.

### **PHYSICAL INTERACTION:**

One of the greatest encouragements about being with others is being able to express that joy with a handshake, a hug, a fist bump, or many other manners of physical interaction. In Stage One of reopening our campus, we will need to steer clear of that interaction as it provides direct contact transmission which could potentially allow someone who is infected asymptotically (not showing any symptoms) to pass along the COVID-19 virus to everyone they touch, directly followed by everyone that person touches, and so forth and so on. For this season just enjoy waving, air high fives, distant fist bumps, and blow Holy kisses ☺ (with your face masks on of course – LOL)

### **OFFERING:**

One of our Stage One goals is to avoid all elements of contact transmission of germs and passing an offering plate across our sanctuary will not accomplish that goal. In Stage One, we will continue with our 3-fold approach to giving as we have been doing during our online season (Give Online / Give through mail / Drop Off Box at the church main entrance). Additionally, we will have containers available as you are leaving the sanctuary to give as you exit at the conclusion of the worship service. To give online, head to <https://myeastside.tv/give>

### **NEXT STEPS MINISTRY:**

Our Next Steps ministry serves to follow up on decisions and questions our attendees would have after a service. We normally have multiple tables up front at the conclusion of the service for personal direction and encouragement concerning decisions that have been made or the desire for more information about what making certain decisions looks like. Our desire to assist those who want to know more about Jesus will continue in our Stage One reopening, but we will not have the tables and meeting spaces at the front of the sanctuary. We are equipped to respond quickly through our texting service (given in person and online at the end of a service) and we will have specific engaging messaging in our online formats to draw people to a place where they can discuss their decisions or their desire for a decision with a leader that can encourage and guide them.

### **CRY ROOM / CHANGING ROOM:**

Our Cry Room and Changing Room are a great asset to our worship facility where a parent can take a nursing infant or a child that needs to break away from the confines of a worship gathering to a place where they can be able to minister to their family while still listening to the service. In Stage One of reopening, we will not have these rooms open because of the need to

clean them after each person enters and leaves. We will be considering how to best utilize these rooms in Stage Two of our reopening to better serve those in attendance at East Side!

### **SERVICE REGISTRATION:**

Our desire to comply with proper social distancing and plan for the correct number of people in our services has led us to the place where we are asking those who wish to attend our services to register beforehand so we can know how many people to expect and know when our sanctuary seating is full for that week. We will be using Eventbrite.com (this is an online service) and/or the Eventbrite App for our registration process and will have weekly signups that go live on Monday for the upcoming Sunday. These links will be posted on our website ([www.myeastside.tv](http://www.myeastside.tv)) and through our Facebook page. Once we fill a specific service for multiple weeks, we will consider adding another service to meet the needs of our church family. For our first service on June 7<sup>th</sup>, we will have one service and 210 registered spots to fill. Each spot is a person so family groups would reserve multiple spots in a single reservation. Once you have registered, you will receive an email that you can show us on arrival on your phone or smart device, or you can print out the registration and show it to us in paper form. For help or assistance with this process, please call the church office (479-452-1481) during business hours so we can walk you through this simple and easy service which will allow us to focus on safety and sharing the gospel as we reopen our campus for worship gatherings!

### **KID'S MINISTRY PACKS:**

Knowing that our Stage One reopening of our campus is going to entail family worship due to an absence of childcare, we wanted to make sure that we had something available to encourage and direct our kids during our worship gatherings. Upon entering the worship facility, we will have someone that can hand out sealed packets to a parent or child/children that will contain simple time occupying and encouraging projects that the kids can devote time and energy to during the service. We are thankful that in a season where we don't have childcare available, that we do have alternative opportunities to help our children adapt to an adult worship environment and model for them what it looks like to worship together in a corporate gathering on a weekly basis.