



St. Lawrence Episcopal Church
A Re-entry Plan for Phase Two – Restricted Indoor Worship
June 15, 2021

After 14 months of suspension of in-person worship in the indoor space of the church building, the wardens and vestry of St. Lawrence seek our next step in reopening, under careful protocols, during the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis. The first step was to enable St. Lawrence Church to hold small pastoral services such as weddings and funerals, for those who seek them. This Phase Two plan would permit indoor, in-person worship with limitations and protocols as stated below based on safety guidance from the CDC, the State of Illinois, our county health department, and our diocese*.

PREPARING/CLEANING/DISINFECTING

1. Before any service will be held in the church during the health crisis, the SEXTONS will thoroughly clean the entire upper level of the building including the sanctuary, narthex, sacristy, nursery, library, Fireside Room, Godly Play room, office, entrances/elevator and all three restrooms.
2. The SEXTONS AND PARISH ADMINISTRATOR will ensure that we provide adequate time between services for cleaning.

COMMON SPACES & FURNISHINGS

3. The PARISH ADMINISTRATOR will ensure that worship bulletins are distributed in the pews adherent to social distancing requirements and provide a recycling bin for proper disposal.
4. The PARISH ADMINISTRATOR will ensure that we review and rearrange, if needed, the physical layout of spaces such as narthex, nave, sacristy, vesting areas, etc. to allow for physical distancing and overall safety.
5. The SEXTONS AND PARISH ADMINISTRATOR will ensure that adequate cleaning and sanitation supplies are available in bathrooms, including soap, disposable towels, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer. Covered trash receptacles are also utilized.
6. The SEXTONS AND PARISH ADMINISTRATOR will ensure signage concerning proper personal hygiene (ex: handwashing, disposing of trash).

SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED

7. The SEXTONS AND PARISH ADMINISTRATOR will ensure that hand sanitizer, tissues and waste baskets are accessible and in convenient locations.
8. The SEXTONS AND PARISH ADMINISTRATOR will ensure face coverings are available for those who do not have them.

COMMUNICATION TO WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

9. Approved facial coverings/masks and social distancing are required.
10. In the event a choir is used in worship, the MUSIC DIRECTOR will ensure that no more than four fully vaccinated people sing together at an indoor worship service, with all singers wearing a well-fitting mask, and distanced at least 6 feet from any other person. It is also encouraged that the singers also be at least 15 feet away from other members of the congregation. Congregants are welcome to hum along while music is played or sung.
11. The preferred and safest option for fellowship and sharing of food is outdoors. All food should be individually wrapped/boxed and beverages should be pre-portioned or individual servings. Masks are required except when eating and drinking.
12. The SEXTON will ensure we have appropriate visible signage concerning physical distancing, hand washing, and wearing of facial coverings.
13. The PRIEST will ensure that families requesting pastoral services are aware of guidelines and will commit to adhering to them.
14. The maximum number of participants allowed indoors will be guided by the county, region, and state regulations. Maximum occupancy in the sanctuary will be limited to 50 people. Maximum occupancy in the library and Fireside Room will be limited to 5 individuals. In the event attendance exceeds the limit of 50 congregants, additional socially distanced seating will be available in the narthex. During Holy Communion, the PRIEST will come out to the narthex with the consecrated bread.
15. The PRIEST will ensure that clergy and staff are trained in the new procedures.

We are committed to following and communicating the guidelines we have established.

*Updated COVID-19 Guidelines, Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, May 5, 2021

May 5 COVID-19 Guidelines Presentation - Episcopal Diocese of Chicago (episcopalchicago.org)

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