

July 28, 2020

Dear Lee's Summit Christian Church Community,

In our desire to communicate with everyone in as many ways possible, we wanted to send you an update from your Ministry Team and the LSCC Re-Open Protocol Ministry Action Team. Together we have been meeting every couple of weeks to examine the data and discern the path forward for Lee's Summit Christian Church in the time of this COVID-19 Pandemic.

In making these decisions, the Team prioritized two principles. First, our decisions are based on what the scientific evidence and data is telling us. These are the steps we feel the Church can presently take and minimize risk for LSCC members. Keep in mind that there is no way to reduce our risk to zero. The second principle which has guided our decision making process is Jesus' call and commitment to love your neighbor and to care for the most vulnerable.

The Team has reviewed multiple guideline or recommendation documents and articles from a variety of sources – including the CDC, other medical and scientific reports (some specific to churches), as well as governmental resources. The goal has been to determine the safest opportunity to “re-open” LSCC that provides the greatest safety benefit for the majority of our church members.

The scientific evidence supports several key factors that are the basis for our Re-Opening Plan. These include always wearing facemasks, maintaining physical distancing, and sanitizing hands. Minimizing the risk of exposure to a person with early COVID illness by asking triage questions about symptoms and possible COVID exposure, along with temperature checking, is important.

Being outdoors decreases risk compared to being indoors. As the size of a group increases, so does the risk of encountering a person with COVID illness. One mathematical study (based on the current prevalence of COVID illness in Jackson County) predicts the risk of encountering a person with COVID illness is 22% for a group of 25 people, but increases to 40% risk with a group of 50 people. Singing also significantly increases the risk of virus spread.

Presently, the cases of COVID-19 are still rising in our KC Metro area. We have embraced the reality COVID-19 will have an impact in our community for the foreseeable future. In recognition of this fact, we have developed a Four-Phase Plan LSCC will use as a guide to how we might gather together or “re-open” given the present circumstances. This Plan has been presented to the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) for their consent.

We will first line out the Four Phases and then explain how we transition from one to another.

Phase 1: Starting soon (after group leader training), small groups (no more than 20) are allowed to gather outside the church - providing that they practice social distancing, wear facemasks, hand sanitize, check temperatures of each participant, go through the triage questionnaire, and keep a log of all participants (for possible contact tracing, if necessary). These groups can gather for up to 45 minutes. Finally, they will need to RSVP with the Church Office so that we can make sure groups obtain needed supplies and do not overlap.

Phase 2: Small groups, again no more than 20, can gather inside the building in the Social Hall. They will have access to one set of restrooms and will need to follow all the previous protocol specifics mentioned in Phase 1. The Social Hall was chosen because of the high ceiling and ease of cleaning (compared to the Sanctuary).

Phase 3: Large groups can gather outside for a 45 minute gathering. Again, this requires adhering to the previous mentioned protocol.

Phase 4: Large groups, up to 58, can gather in the Social Hall for a 45 minute meeting - provided they adhere to the protocol. The Social Hall will already be set up and the expectation is for groups to use the provided layout, which has been designed to maximize use of the space while adhering to physical distancing practices.

All of these phases are explained in more detail in the protocol documents created for group leaders. If you would like the more detailed copy, please reach out to the Church Office and we will email it to you. Also, in making these requirements, the Church is offering all groups who would like to use our building and premises no-touch thermometers, facemasks, and hand sanitizer. Leaders will need to go through a training with the Re-Open Protocol Team before activities can proceed.

For the transition from one phase to the next, the Team has agreed to the following criteria. Cases of COVID-19 in the KC Metro area must be trending downwards for two weeks, along with decreasing hospitalizations, for LSCC to move up to the next phase. And vice versa, if cases start trending upwards in our area for two weeks we could move back down a phase.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to a Team member. Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support.

Shalom,

Your Ministry Team:

Rev. Kelley Porter
Rev. Dr. Matthew Silvers
Rev. Kevin Snow
Rev. Seth Vopat

Your LSCC Re-Open Protocol Ministry Action Team:

Terry Brush	Kathy Moore
Craig Buhr	Carla Oliver
Mark Hoffman, PhD	Bob Rutherford
Mary Johnson	Steve Salanski, MD
Stacey Martin	Dennis Smith

