

Current State: Phase 3

As faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in the midst of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain committed to our biblical mandate to “love our neighbors as ourselves” and our Wesleyan call to “Do no harm. Do all the good we can. Follow the ordinances (stay in love) with God.” In doing so, we seek ways to engage faithfully in worship, study, and ministry while ensuring the health and safety of our members and communities.

With the October 2 move to Phase 3, the Bishop and Cabinet make the following recommendations:

<p>Worship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recommend that if you choose to return to indoor worship, you limit attendance (including all worship leaders and tech assistants) to 30% capacity or 100 congregants, whichever is less. Masks and social distancing should be mandatory. • If you offer indoor worship, continue online or conference call options for vulnerable persons for whom it is not safe to come to the church building. • Continue hosting online, drive-in, or outdoor worship services while following CDC, NCDHHS (state), and local guidelines, including handwashing, wearing masks, and observing physical distancing rules as appropriate. • Most experts recommend no congregational or full choir singing. (See chart on the back of this document)
<p>Preschools, Children & Youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, most of our preschools, childcare, children and youth ministries follow public school guidance. We urge you to stay current as to the plan of your local school system. The CDC and NCDHHS have guidelines for the reopening of preschools and childcare facilities. • Maintain 25 maximum with social distancing and masks for any indoor groups. • Outside children and youth activities are an option. • Consider creative online, mailed or no-touch drop-off children and youth activity options to keep children and youth engaged, making sure to honor the On-Line Safety section of the Safe Sanctuaries Policy.
<p>Mission & Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All outreach to vulnerable populations (food distribution ministries, homeless, etc.) should be done with appropriate physical distance and sanitation practices, including no sit-down meals until public gatherings are safe.
<p>Church Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working remotely or on a staggered schedule is recommended. • If staff (paid or unpaid) work on-site, you must use the guidelines for size of gatherings, social distancing, masks, gloves, etc. Their presence on-site should be done with minimal overlap. We recommend a daily health-screening and temperature check for on-site staff and volunteers. (Legal and Liability Issues)
<p>Disciple Formation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups should meet online as much as possible. • Indoor meetings should be 25 or less and must follow Safe Sanctuaries policies and all CDC Guidelines for physical distancing. Only prepackaged food should be served or shared during these gatherings.
<p>Leadership Teams & Committees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups should meet online as much as possible. • Indoor meetings should be 25 or less and must follow Safe Sanctuaries policies and all CDC Guidelines for physical distancing. Only prepackaged food should be served or shared during these gatherings.

Funerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use same guidelines as for WORSHIP • Discourage reception or greeting line. • No bulletins. • No congregational singing. • Online streaming of service for others to participate virtually is encouraged.
Weddings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use same guidelines as for WORSHIP • Consider an outdoor reception or greeting of guests of no more than 50 persons. <u>Seated</u> indoor receptions should be limited to the lesser of 100 people or 30% of the stated fire capacity. (No standing indoor receptions or buffet lines.) • No bulletins. • No congregational singing. • Online streaming of service for others to participate virtually is encouraged.

For further information on recommended safety measures for indoor worship, please refer to pages 4ff in the [Guidelines for In-Person Worship & Ministry during Covid-19](#) and to this [Toolkit](#) from the NCDHHS.

Levels of Risk

Type and level of group activity	Low occupancy			High occupancy		
	Outdoors and well ventilated	Indoors and well ventilated	Poorly ventilated	Outdoors and well ventilated	Indoors and well ventilated	Poorly ventilated
Wearing face coverings, contact for short time						
Silent	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Speaking	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Shouting, singing	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
Wearing face coverings, contact for prolonged time						
Silent	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	High
Speaking	Low	* Low	Medium	* Medium	Medium	High
Shouting, singing	Low	Medium	High	Medium	High	High
No face coverings, contact for short time						
Silent	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
Speaking	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High
Shouting, singing	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High
No face coverings, contact for prolonged time						
Silent	Low	Medium	High	Medium	High	High
Speaking	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High
Shouting, singing	Medium	High	High	High	High	High

Risk of transmission

Low ■ Medium ■ High ■

* Borderline case that is highly dependent on quantitative definitions of distancing, number of individuals, and time of exposure

From: <https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3223> . As you read this article, it is helpful to remember that 1m = 3 feet 3.37 inches and that 7-8 m is approximately 23-26 feet.