

Holy Family Episcopal Church Regathering Plan

Diocesan Questions:

How will you ensure safe airflow? Can your HVAC system be set to increase the rate of exchange with fresh air? Does the HVAC system have highly efficient particle filters in place?

We have checked with HVAC professionals and we have the highest possible filtration system that our updated HVAC system allows. Our HVAC system has diverse sources of fresh air and most of our rooms (including the sanctuary) have windows that can open.

How will you ensure sanitation and disinfection of your physical plant including pews, doorknobs, light switches, restrooms, and other areas that people touch when they are in your building?

We will identify members of the "sanitation team," standards of sanitation and supplies, and equipment required. We will train team members and include the role in our serving schedule. We will direct our cleaning service to sanitize high-touch areas in addition to regular cleaning.

How will you sanitize prayer books and hymnals and provide for the distribution and disposal of worship bulletins?

Prior to resuming worship in the sanctuary, prayer books and hymnals will be removed. Printed bulletins will not be provided, instead video screens in the sanctuary will be utilized to display key service information. Parishioners will be encouraged to access bulletins online via smartphones.

A donation box will be available at the entry of the worship space instead of passing the offering plate.

Do you need to make provisions for small group gathering spaces?

Initially, we will have no small groups meeting in the church building. Small group meetings will continue via video conference or will meet outdoors with social distancing and masks.

Do you need to make provisions to disinfect and/or restrict the use of nurseries or playgrounds?

Initially, we will not reopen the nursery or the playground.

If you hold multiple services, how will you ensure proper social distancing between those leaving the church and those arriving?

Parishioners will be encouraged to arrive shortly before beginning of worship and to leave as soon as possible at the end of worship.

How will you communicate your safety standards and procedures to people both before they enter the building and while they are present at a service or meeting?

Prior to reopening, we will inform the parishioners of the reopening guidelines through a variety of media, including postal mail, e-mail, videos, website, and social media. These guidelines will also be posted on signage at the church, on the Holy Family website, and referenced in the weekly newsletter to parishioners.

If you choose to return to your buildings while those over 65 and those with underlying medical conditions are being advised to stay home, how will you provide for them and for others who do not feel safe attending church?

For those who do not feel safe attending in-person worship at the church, the service will be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Socially distanced and masked pastoral presence in an outside location at the individual's home may also be offered to those precluded from attending services due to age, underlying medical concerns, or other pertinent concerns of the parishioner.

How will you respond to people in high risk categories who nonetheless want to return to in-person worship?

We will continue to communicate diocesan and governmental guidelines.

If you return to your church, will you continue to provide an online service? Online coffee hour? Online small groups?

We will implement livestreamed services on YouTube and Facebook. We will continue to hold Zoom gatherings for small groups, e.g., Youth Group, Daughters of King, Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the Confirmation Group, etc.

How will you limit attendance at gatherings so there is room for visitors and newcomers to take part without exceeding the guideline maximum?

We will not worship in person until there is no limit for our parish attendance.

How will you coordinate logistics like reservations in order to make that happen?

We will not worship in person until there is no limit for our parish attendance. Every effort will be made to track attendance in the event that contact tracing becomes necessary.

Everyone present in church gatherings must wear masks. How will you provide masks for people who forget? How will you attend to someone who doesn't want to wear a mask?

We will communicate that all worshippers are required to bring and wear their own masks during worship. We will acquire a quantity of masks for those who arrive for worship without them. Volunteers will distribute masks. If someone refuses to wear a mask, the gathering will end, and all participants will leave the premises.

Will you screen people who attend gatherings? How will you respond if someone appears ill?

Screening questions will be based on updated CDC guidelines. Signage outside the worship site will list screening questions, and volunteers will ask those arriving to confirm that none apply. If someone appears ill, they will be escorted to a designated area away from the worship space. If they are too ill to return home on their own, a family member, an emergency contact, and/or an ambulance will be summoned as appropriate. Holy Family clergy/staff will follow up with the individual/family.

What degree of exposure to someone with COVID-19 would preclude someone from gathering? (Someone in their household? In the workspace? A neighbor they pass on the street?)

Our screening questions will be based on updated CDC guidelines. Current guidelines can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

How will you communicate seating arrangements that ensure social distancing?

Social distancing guidelines will be described in the weekly newsletter, the Holy Family website, and other church communication. In addition, for outdoor services, worshippers will be asked to bring their own lawn chairs and apply social distancing to the spacing of the chairs between household units.

In the event of inclement weather, in-person worship will be cancelled. For worship in the sanctuary, we will provide six feet of separation between households and provide signage outlining the social distancing requirements as well. Additional areas will be provided for overflow seating that also follow required social distancing.

Proposed Stages for Resuming In-Person Worship:

Holy Family Episcopal Church will regather following a phased approach with the following target dates (dependent on meeting diocesan guidelines regarding COVID-19 cases, infection rates, and positive test result percentages).

Stage 1:

- Outdoor worship – no sooner than late Summer 2020 (subject to change based on COVID-19 data)
- 8 AM and 10 AM Sunday, outdoor worship space
 - In the event of severe weather, e.g. thunderstorms, in-person worship will be cancelled.
 - A quick communication plan will be enabled to redirect parishioners to an online worship option.
- No Eucharist
- All worshippers screened for health issues
- Masks required of all worshippers age 2 and over
- Instrumental (non-wind) or recorded music only; no choral or congregational singing
- No in-person hospitality hour
- No nursery, in-person Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Forum
- Church groups, e.g., Vestry, ministry teams, continue to meet online
- Small groups – meet outdoors with social distancing and masks
- Outside groups resume using the church building dependent on Vestry approval and signed building use agreement
- Livestreaming implemented, recorded services will continue to be available on YouTube and Facebook.

Stage 2:

- Indoor worship – no sooner than Fall 2020 (subject to change based on COVID-19 data)
- 8 AM and 10 AM Sunday, in Sanctuary with chairs arranged to meet social distance requirements
- No Eucharist
- All worshippers screened for health issues
- Masks required of all worshippers
- Instrumental (non-wind) or recorded music only; no choral or congregational signing
- In-person Nursery, Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Forum resume
- Church groups, e.g., Vestry, ministry teams may resume meeting at church.
- Outside groups resume using the church building dependent on Vestry approval and signed building use agreement
- Livestreaming and recorded services on YouTube and Facebook will continue.

Stage 3:

- Indoor worship – no sooner than early 2021 (subject to change based on COVID-19 data)
- Once a COVID-19 vaccination is widely implemented, resume "normal" worship, programming
- Eucharist may resume per diocesan guidelines.
- Hospitality refreshments will resume.
- Choral, congregational singing resumes.
- YouTube and livestreaming services will continue.

In all above stages, we will revert to an earlier stage, or no in-person worship, if COVID-19 conditions warrant.