

**Emergency Management Protocol**  
**For Resuming In-Person Church Activities**  
**First Baptist Church of Anderson, SC**

*The following protocol will be used in determining schedules and plans for resuming church activities. Church Staff and Church Officials will adopt movement from phase to phase upon consultation with local and regional public health officials. These phases are based on 14 day benchmarks for COVID-19 symptoms and cases. (Visit [www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica](http://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica) for more information.) Additionally, if recommendations of health officials change, it may be necessary to revert to a previous phase.*

## **Phase Red**

### **Worship**

- Only online/pre-recorded worship will be held.

### **Meetings and Gatherings**

- Church building will be closed.
- Classes and church groups should meet online.
- All in-person meetings suspended.

### **Hospitality**

- Clear signage, phones, email, and communications will reflect closures and precautions.

### **Pastoral Care**

- Church staff, leaders, and family ministers will continue to engage with members by phone, email, and videoconference with at-risk, homebound, and isolated populations.
- Funerals will be conducted in consultation with the funeral home director and the family of the deceased
- Pastoral care and counseling may be held if necessary and strict physical distancing observed.

### **Volunteers and staffing**

- Staff will be encouraged to work from home if possible.
- Staff meetings and community mission work may be possible if strict physical distancing observed.

### **Children**

- Virtual initiatives and programming should continue.
- No group activities with children or youth.

## **Phase Yellow**

### **Worship**

- In-person worship resumes.
  - Sanctuary will be marked off for physical distancing.
  - All church staff and volunteers (including worship leaders, greeters, ushers, and health and security personnel) are required to wear face masks.
  - Face masks are strongly encouraged for everyone.
  - Hand sanitizer will be easily accessible and encouraged by volunteers.
  - Offering will be collected at the door.
  - No materials will be handed out.
  - Offering counters will use face masks and hand sanitizer. Gloves will be provided for them.
  - No nursery care will be offered.

### **Meetings and Gatherings**

- No adult or children's choirs will meet.
- No church-wide meals will be served.
- Church groups can meet in-person during the week by making a reservation through the office in large, designated classrooms set up by staff.
  - Groups should obey all recommended physical distancing guidelines.
  - Group members should wear appropriate PPE, especially including the use of face masks.
  - If multiple groups sign up for the same day, start times will be staggered to avoid entering and exiting the building at the same time.
- All committee meetings will still meet online.

### **Hospitality**

- Clear signage, phones, email, and communications will reflect closures, directions for seating in sanctuary, accessing meetings, and precautions.

### **Pastoral Care**

- Church staff, leaders, and family ministers will continue to engage with members by phone, email, and videoconference with at-risk, homebound, and isolated populations.
- Funerals will be conducted in consultation with the funeral home director and the family of the deceased.
- Pastoral care and counseling may be held by appointment with physical distancing observed.
- Visitation will be permitted with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

### **Volunteers and staffing**

- Church Office will be opened by appointment.
- Staff meetings and community mission work may be held using physical distancing and precautions.

### **Youth and Children**

- Virtual initiatives and programming will be used when appropriate.
- Group meetings for youth and children should follow the same guidelines and recommendations as adult classes.
  - The group meeting should obey all recommended physical distancing guidelines.
  - Participants should wear appropriate PPE, especially including the use of face masks.
  - If multiple groups need to be signed up for the same day, start times will be staggered to avoid entering and exiting the building at the same time.

## Phase Green

### **Worship**

- In-person worship resumes.
  - Sanctuary will be marked off for physical distancing.
  - All church staff, volunteers (including worship leaders, greeters, ushers, and health and security personnel) will be required to wear face masks.
  - Face masks are strongly suggested for all attendees
  - Worship will be limited to 45 minutes
  - Hand sanitizer will be easily accessible and encouraged by volunteers.
  - Offering will be collected at the door.
  - No materials will be handed out.
  - Offering counters will use face masks and hand sanitizer. Gloves will be provided for them
- Nursery care will resume in a designated location outside of the space used by the Child Development Center, with workers using appropriate PPE.

### **Meetings and Gatherings**

- Wednesday noon Bible studies resume.
- Wednesday night activities resume.
- Sunday School resumes on Sunday morning following worship service.
  - Classes may be moved to accommodate appropriate physical distancing.
- In-person meetings for church business may begin, or remain online
- No adult or children's choirs will meet.
- No church-wide meals will be served.

### **Hospitality**

- Clear signage, phones, email, and communications will reflect closures, directions for seating in sanctuary, accessing meetings, and precautions.

### **Pastoral Care**

- Church staff, leaders, and family ministers will continue to engage with members by phone, email, and videoconference with at-risk, homebound, and isolated populations.
- Funerals will be conducted in consultation with the funeral home director and the family of the deceased.
- Pastoral care and counseling may be held by appointment with social distancing observed.
- Visitation will be permitted with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Churches should watch for signs of deferred health issues, addiction, abuse, or residual stress.

### **Volunteers and staffing**

- Church Office will be fully opened.
- Family Life Center re-opens.
- Staff meetings and community mission work will continue using physical distancing and precautions.
- Training in new procedures and protocols will be done with volunteers as appropriate.

### **Children**

- Children and youth activities will resume with protections in place for physical distancing and disinfecting.
- Strict precautions for vulnerable children and volunteers should be maintained.

## **Phase White**

Church activities return to normal when COVID-19 is overcome by its own attenuation, when a vaccine is developed and available, or when medical treatments negate its effects on the population/.