

Small Group Meetings

Guidelines for Small Group Meetings: Session, Ministry Teams, Bible Study Groups Session approved 5/4/21

According to the *Long Beach Safer At Home Order for Control of COVID-19* (4/16/21), Long Beach is now in the Orange Tier (moderate COVID-19 spread).

Following the 4/16/21 *Long Beach Safer At Home Order* and the 7/29/20 *California Industry Guidance: places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies*, outdoor services are strongly encouraged and indoor services are recommended to remain at 50% capacity with certain modifications. Please follow guidance from the city and state for more complete information.

Back office staff and management may operate indoors and in-person according to the *Long Beach Office Worksite Protocol*. Masks must be worn and a physical distance of 6 ft must be maintained. Please refer to the *Faithful Phasing* document and the *Office Worksite Protocol* for complete guidelines.

The Reopening Team recommends permitting Session meetings, ministry team meetings, and Bible study groups to continue to meet on the church campus with the following guidelines of the *Faithful Phasing* document, the 4/16/21 *Long Beach Safer At Home Order*, and the 7/29/20 *California Industry Guidance: places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies*.

Preparation

1. Group leaders must attend a COVID-19 training session, provided by Chris Chandler.
2. All-campus guidelines will be observed. This includes guidelines for check-in and check-out, found in Step 4 of the *Faithful Phasing* reopening document. Send home anyone who is ill.
3. A Zoom component will be offered for those who elect to remain at home.
4. Attendees must sign a COVID-19 release form.
5. Leaders will keep an attendance sheet and turn it into the office. It will be kept for 3 weeks.
6. As much as possible, hold meetings outdoors. If you meet indoors, please increase fresh air circulation by opening windows and doors.
7. Masks must be worn and a physical distance of 6 ft must be maintained. Wash hands or sanitize. Do not share materials.

During the Meeting

8. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs. However, if church chairs are used, they must be cleaned and sanitized afterwards.
9. Refreshments are discouraged, but if they are brought, they should be in single-serve disposable containers. Beverages should be in sealed containers. Sharing food is not permitted.
10. Meetings should be limited to 2 hours.

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11. If multiple meetings are taking place at the same time on campus, groups must remain together and intact. No mixing.
12. Singing, chanting, shouting, cheering, physical exertion or similar activities are strongly discouraged both indoors and outdoors. However, if they do occur:
 - a. If outdoors, everyone must maintain 6 ft physical distance from performers and spectators, even with a mask. Without a mask, the distance is 12 feet.
 - b. If indoors, you must always wear a mask. Remain 12 feet away from other performers and 24 feet away from spectators.
 - c. Perform quietly to reduce aerosolized droplets.
13. Instrumental music is strongly discouraged, both indoors and outdoors. However, if it does occur:
 - a. If outdoors, musicians must maintain a 6 foot physical distance from other performers and spectators even with a mask. Without a mask, they must remain 12 feet away from other performers and spectators.
 - b. If indoors, musicians must always wear a mask and they must maintain at least 12 feet physical distance from other performers and 24 feet from spectators.
 - c. Musicians must be from one of the 3 households. Wind instruments are strongly discouraged, but if they are used, they must be used with a protective, tightly woven cloth covering over the bell.
 - d. Perform quietly to reduce aerosolized droplets.

Remember

Even if one is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, masks must still be worn when on campus. Please keep your masks covering both nose and mouth at all times.