

*Second Baptist Church
Safety Guide – Pandemic 2020-2021
Returning to the Church Building*

**PHASE ONE
Worship Service Only**



Worship Christ, Love One Another, and Do God's Will

**Second Baptist Church
186 N. 17th Street
Columbus, OH 43203
Dr. Howard T. Washington, Pastor**



To My Second Baptist Church Family:

In just a few months, COVID-19 turned our world upside down. All of us have been directly impacted by the pandemic. As a church family, we grieved the inability to gather for worship, fellowship, and ministry. We rejoice in announcing that we will return to in-person worship on **Sunday, September 5, 2021**.

As you are aware, last June, I convened the Reopening Our Church Building (ROCB) Team to prepare guidance when we gather in person. The ROCB Team researched, planned, and prayed to develop and update the SBC Reopening Our Church Building Safety Guide. The Guide details protocols and practices to provide a safe space for worship and ministry at Second Baptist Church.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), (COVID-19) infection is minimal for fully vaccinated people. The risk transmission from fully vaccinated people to unvaccinated people is also reduced. Therefore, fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. Prevention measures are still recommended for unvaccinated people. To error on the side of caution, Second Baptist **will require masks** while inside the building.

Sunday School, Bible Study, and Sweet Hour of Prayer will continue in a virtual format at this time. As logistics and protocols are finalized, we plan to integrate in-person options for each, and the membership will be notified promptly.

We prayerfully ask those worshipping to note that these protocols and guidelines are subject to adjustment as conditions or needs change in our community based on guidance from our local and state health departments. May God bless you and keep you.

In the Secret Place of the Most High,

Dr. Howard T. Washington, Senior Pastor
Second Baptist Church of Columbus

INTRODUCTION TO SAFETY GUIDE

The Second Baptist Church Reopening Committee has looked at different aspects of what returning to church might look like. Every decision has been focused on your safety, comfort level, and well-being as we return to our sanctuary for in-person worship. With that in mind, and following local, state, and CDC guidelines, we have established the following procedures as we plan to reopen our church for worship. Please understand that these guidelines might change as directed by higher officials.

HIGH RISK: Are YOU in this category?

In accordance with both the State and Local Health departments as well as the Center for Disease Control, an informed group of clinicians, nurses, and healthcare administrators who are members of Second Baptist Church, we are sharing the following recommendations for the church body.

First and foremost, while we understand that there is a strong desire to re-engage with friends and family after experiencing a long period of stringent social distancing, we are encouraging all members who are higher risk to worship from home.

Have You Been Fully Vaccinated?

In general, people are considered fully vaccinated:

*2 weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose series, or
2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine*

If you don't meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are **NOT** fully vaccinated and need to continue to take steps to protect yourself from COVID-19.

According to the CDC, if you are fully vaccinated and have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may NOT be protected even if you are fully vaccinated. You should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people until advised otherwise by your healthcare provider.

Higher risk individuals are in the following groups:

- **Those 65-years-old and older**
- **Those having poorly controlled diabetes or hypertension**
- **Those who have heart disease, morbid obesity, or those experiencing breathing difficulties such as asthma or chronic lung disease**

- **Those who may be immunocompromised from certain diagnoses and treatment.**

If you are in this category, with one or more of these conditions, it is best that you worship remotely/at home. Please contact your physician who can clarify questions about your specific diagnoses that may place you at high risk for life-threatening COVID-19 illness.

Your health and safety are a top priority to us. To accommodate those for whom social gatherings may cause risk, Second Baptist Church will continue to stream online during worship hours as well as have virtual Sunday School.

If you are feeling well, our screening protocol should ensure that you could worship safely onsite by practicing the SBC COVID-19 social distancing guidelines below:

- Self-Assessment of Members Prior to Attending Church Service
- Screening of all Members Prior to Entering Worship
- Universal Masking and Sanitizing
- Isolation and Response Protocols in the Event of Symptoms at Church
- Contact Tracing Information in the Event an SBC Attendee Tests Positive



BEFORE COMING TO CHURCH

- You are asked to notify the church, weekly, of your plans to attend Sunday Worship Service by Wednesday by calling the church office at: (614-253-4313) or sending a message on the church Facebook page. Please include the number of persons in your party, as this will help in managing the numbers of persons allowed in the facility under social distancing guidelines.
- You are asked to do a self-assessment before leaving home. If you are not feeling well or have a temperature of 99 degrees or above, a cough, or

other symptoms that might indicate illness, you are asked to worship at home and participate in worship via our online streaming.

- At this time transportation services to and from church will **NOT** be available.
- Anyone experiencing physical limitations should make arrangements to be dropped off and picked up at the ramp entrance to avoid the stairs of the main entrance.

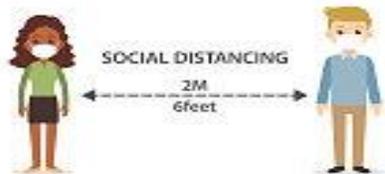
Every member is always asked to practice the following best practices in COVID-19 Prevention:

1. **Wear a Mask when in public places (Bring your own mask. If needed, one will be provided). You will be asked to secure your mask by placing around each ear, making a tent over the nose, and stretching the mask under the chin.**

Face Shields are **Not recommended by the CDC: Effectiveness is unknown at this time.*



2. **Practice Social Distancing at least 6 feet apart, but best if you can do 12 feet.**



3. **Wash hands often with water and soap (20 seconds or longer).**
4. **Dry hands with a clean towel or air-dry your hands.**



5. **Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.**



6. **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands or after touching surfaces.**

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE CHURCH

All persons must have their masks on before entering the church.

- The church will be completely professionally cleaned and sanitized.
- Signs will be clearly visible providing guidance for distancing, traffic flow, and seating.
- To protect the health and safety of all those attending, you will be screened at one of two entrance points.



- SBC attendees may use the main 17th Street (West) entrance, which is up the stairs to the sanctuary, or the 17th Street ramp (Southwest) entrance to the Troy wing lobby. Volunteers will man the screening tables from opening to closing of service to accommodate those who enter church after the service

has started. If you successfully pass the screening (healthy), you will be allowed to enter church. If you do not pass the screening, you will be asked to return home.

- A screening questionnaire will be completed on each person as you enter the building. You will be asked about your temperature; pending COVID-19 test results; and any symptoms.
- After passing the screening, you will be asked to wear a mask upon entering the church. If you do not have a mask, masks will be provided at the screening table.
- You will be asked to sanitize your hands before entering the church.



UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

SEATING

- Color codes will be used for seating and will be indicated on each pew. This will make it easier for our ushers and healthcare team to visually place you in the appropriate section according to social distancing guidelines. An usher will direct you to your seat according to your color code. Seating will start in the middle of the designated row and then to the outside, so people will not have to cross over each other.
- Once sections are filled according to spacing specs, an usher will direct members to Classroom A to view the service on monitors.

Gold Section: *Main Sanctuary/West Side facing the front of the church.*

2nd row dedicated to Deaconess; 4th row dedicated to Deaconess for overflow, otherwise it will be for doubles/couples. 6th, 8th, and 10th rows will also be for doubles/couples.

Blue Section: *Main Sanctuary/East Side facing the front of the church.*

Front right side (East) - 1st and 3rd rows dedicated to Deacons

5/7/9 rows: DOUBLE/OR FAMILIES of no more than 4

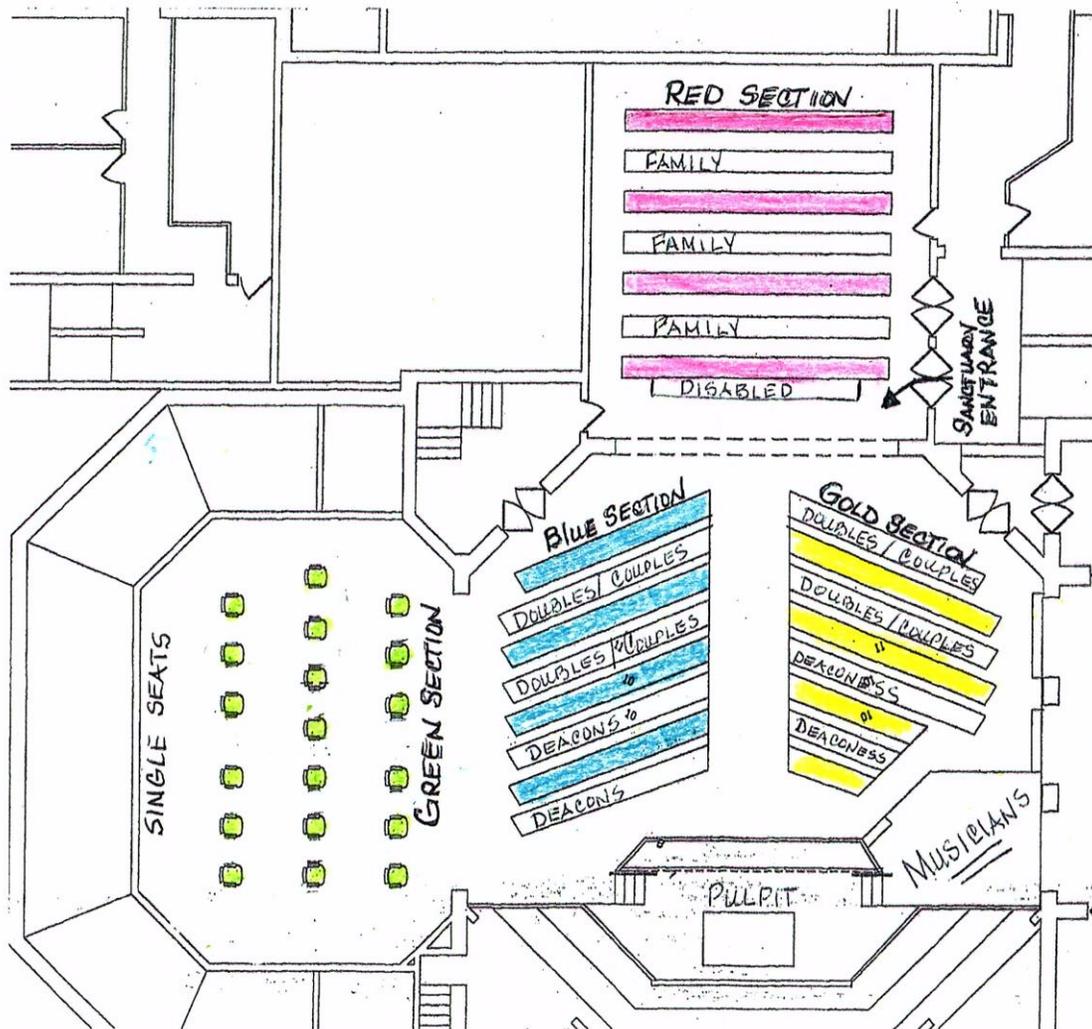
Green Section: *Overflow Far Right (East)*

ALL SINGLES: Chairs will be set up to allow for social distancing.

Red Section: *Back Overflow Section of Main Sanctuary**

1st row handicap only; Rows 3/5/7/9: families of 4 or more

***NOTE:** *This overflow section allows parents to take children out of the sanctuary easily and inconspicuously to go to the restroom or for any other reason.*



DURING WORSHIP SERVICE

You will be asked to wear your mask and continue to social distance **throughout the worship service**. There should be no direct person-to-person contact with anyone except the person(s) you arrived with and are worshipping with. In other words, no hugging, touching, handshaking, etc.

- To minimize contact spreading, there will be no hymnals or Bibles in the pews.
- There will be sanitizer stations located throughout the church building.
- Ushers or Security personnel will direct you to the available restrooms.
- Water fountains will be closed off. Please consider bringing your own bottled water.
- Unused areas of the building will be cordoned off. We kindly ask you to not enter these areas.
- In the unfortunate instance that a member of our congregation becomes ill, the Health and Wellness Ministry at SBC will respond in full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to isolate the individual and triage to determine disposition (e.g., call for family to pick up).
- **TITHES & OFFERINGS:** Offering Baskets will be positioned near the entrance of the sanctuary. You may drop your offering/tithe as you enter for service or as you depart at the conclusion of the worship service.
- **COMMUNION:** We will observe Communion (The Lord's Supper) each first Sunday. It will be a no contact experience. (Cups will not be passed out on an individual basis.) Prior to Worship Service, Communion Cups will be placed in the holders at your pew. For those in the Green Section Overflow, your cup will be in the rear holder of your chair.
- After Communion, place the used cup in the location from which it was removed. In the event additional cups are required, they will be available on a table located in the Green Section Overflow.

Contact Tracing Information in the Event an SBC Attendee Tests Positive

In the event that we have a known COVID-19 exposure at Church, (i.e., one of our church members test positives for COVID-19 and attended church within their infectious period, 2 days prior to symptom onset, up until 10 days after), Second Baptist will work in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health to identify and inform all known close contacts.

Any individual who was within 6 feet of the known positive case for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period will be contacted by the church and will be informed that they should quarantine at home for 2 weeks.

Important Message to Exposed Church Members:

“It is very important for your own safety and for the safety of others that you monitor your health for 14 days from your last possible exposure to COVID-19, and that you remain at home, avoid congregate settings and public activities, and practice social distancing. You should obtain a test for COVID-19 at least once during your quarantine. If you have no symptoms, the test should take place on the 10th day of quarantine.”

CLOSE OF SERVICE/DISMISSAL

You will be dismissed by the color-coded sections, ensuring social distancing. Your patience and cooperation are requested.

Acknowledgements:

Second Baptist Church Reopening Team:

Team Leader: Dr. Howard T. Washington, Pastor

Logistics: Mike Davis, Rhonda Caldwell-Garrett

Communications: Carol E. Ware, Guy Reece, Nerma Cockrell

Health: Sara McIntosh, Nicole Friday, Ivory Dawson, Karen Scott

Facilities: Jadon Nious, Carolyn Francis, Michael Bradley

Safety & Security: Marvin Whiting, Rosby Lee, Sylvia Wilson

Training: Min. Floria Washington, Chanel Nelson, Tina Allen