

# BROAD STREET UMC REOPENING SAFEGUARDS

(draft 8)

## OUR GOAL as DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST DURING THIS PANDEMIC

It is our mission and goal to spread the love of Jesus Christ while stamping out the COVID-19.

## OUR CORE VALUES

1. **Faith** – During uncertain and fearful times, God is our creator and Jesus our healer who will lead us through this time.
2. **Compassion** – We care deeply about all people, those in our congregations and the people in the communities we serve.
3. **Health and Safety** – The health and safety of people is of primary importance.
4. **Mission** – The urgency of the effects of this virus call us to serve the people in our communities and to witness of the love of Jesus Christ within us in new and innovative ways.

## ARRIVING AT THE CHURCH FOR WORSHIP

1. Prior to attending worship, congregants will be informed of these standards and will be urged to continue to participate in worship through our Facebook and YouTube online worship services if they have symptoms. If they consider themselves to be of high risk for contracting the virus, they should consider staying at home.
2. Broad Street UMC requires all congregants to follow all local guidelines regarding masks, social distancing, and quarantine. Congregants should not attend church two weeks following vacations, or travel to states / countries that are listed on the travel restrictions and [travel advisory lists](#) by the State of New Jersey.
3. Congregants will be asked to inform the church if they plan on attending each week. The church will use a “reservation” based format up to the allowed capacity. This attendance list will allow the church to track attendees if required. The church will also photograph the sanctuary/hall at the start of the service to document the seating locations.
4. Family groups will sit together during the worship service.
5. Upon arriving people shall be directed to the front door of the church. People will enter by the center double doors (and exit through the two side doors). Congregants will enter by the front door unless they need to use the handicap ramp.
6. All congregants should bring their own face coverings. Face coverings will be available for visitors to wear and take home. Children under two years old will not be required to wear a mask.
7. Signage at the front and back doors will inform congregants of required physical distancing, sanitizer use and cloth masks.
8. People entering the sanctuary will avoid using doors or handles when possible.
9. People who are at risk will be encouraged to stay home.
10. People who have symptoms will be required to stay away from worship and urged to self-quarantine. Do not attend worship if you have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.
11. Hand sanitizer usage is required upon entering the building.
12. The doors will be locked after the service begins.

## WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

1. Greeters will use face coverings and will be trained to ensure all standards are followed.
2. A supply of masks, hand sanitizer and wipes will be monitored before each service.
3. Each family will maintain six feet social distancing. No family will sit directly in front of or behind another family.
4. The liturgy and bulletin announcements will be projected on the front screen.
5. We will be able to use hymnals, Bibles, pencils, and pens.

**6. We deem congregational singing safe, so we ask that everyone sing softly while wearing a mask.**

7. Offering plates will be at the back exit. We will also strongly promote online giving.
8. All communion elements will be distributed upon entering the sanctuary without human contact. We will use the prepared cups with the wafers included.
9. Microphones will be cleaned between uses. We will only have one liturgist and the preacher during a service to insure minimal contact with the microphone and pulpit.
10. Congregants using the restrooms will be expected to wash their hands on entering the room and on their way out. Signage on restroom doors will include these instructions.
11. For the time being services will continue to be recorded and played over Facebook and YouTube.
12. Following every service each congregant will clean their worship area before departing. Wipes will be prepared and distributed upon entering the sanctuary.
13. Seating will be by assignment as individuals or as families.

## **NURSERY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL**

1. Children will be allowed in the service, but the children's message will be done while children are seated with their parents.
2. Sunday School and Nursery will be postponed until the restrictions are relaxed.

## **FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES**

Fellowship time will be postponed and will be reassessed in the Fall.

## **MEETINGS (WORK AREA COMMITTEES, BIBLE STUDIES, ETC.)**

Meetings will continue online for the time being.

## **OUTSIDE GROUP USE**

Outside group meetings will be postponed and consideration given as we approach the Fall.

## **OFFICE PRACTICES**

Careful handling of all papers etc.

Masks and hand washing.

## **IF INFECTED, TEST POSITIVE OR HAVE EXPOSED TO COVID-19 DURING WORSHIP**

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive after attending a worship service, you should inform the BSUMC leadership immediately. It will be expected that you will self-quarantine, seek medical attention, and refrain from attending worship until you are pronounced "safe" and non-contagious by a physician.

## **OTHER**

All door handles and restrooms will be wiped down each week by a rotating team of volunteers. A professional cleaning will be done as needed.

We will send out a survey to all congregants to ascertain the conditions under which they will feel comfortable returning to the church. We will also question each congregant's willingness to commit to help clean up after the services. There will be a question to parents regarding their child's participation in worship and Sunday School.

Each month The COVID RESPONSE TEAM will meet and reassess these standards and decide which standards should be changed or lifted. Our goal is to keep everyone safe.