TBC Small Groups of 25 People or Less in Current COVID-19 Regulations

6/24/20

We are moving ahead towards a gradual regathering of our local church. As governmental restrictions continue to ease up, we will avail ourselves of the opportunity to assemble to the glory of God. As we do so, we also want to hold His Name in high regard by the way we respect the authorities He has placed in our lives (Rom 13) and by living in such a way that the lost can see our good deeds and glorify our Father in Heaven (Mat 5:16). What is written below is a summary of the state’s guidance (found [here](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/ReligiousandFuneralServicesMasterGuidance.pdf)), and some particulars about using our facilities.

# General Safety Precautions

* If you are sick, stay home.
* Remember that 25 is a total number in the whole building. This includes children.
* Keep at least 6 feet apart. If you choose to sing, then the minimum distance becomes 12 feet.
* Do not touch or share items.
* Outside meetings are preferred, if possible. If inside, consider opening windows.
* Wear a mask.
* Keep hand hygiene and cleaning in mind. Wash with soap, or use sanitizer with over 60% alcohol.
* Clean and disinfect premises before and after use.

# Screening for COVID-19

* Be aware of three things
	+ Have you had symptoms in the last 14 days?
	+ Have you tested positive in the last 14 days?
	+ Have you been in close contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days?
* If someone in your group tests positive, they may return after completing a 14 day quarantine. This is true even if they have not presented any symptoms during this period.
* If you have had close contact with a confirmed or suspected person with COVID-19 but are not experiencing any symptoms, please communicate this to your small group leader. Feel free to continue coming, but regularly monitor for symptoms and temperature, wear a face covering, and maintain appropriate social distancing.

# Using the Church’s Building

* We understand that for some small groups meeting at homes may present additional challenges at this time. You may sign up to use the church’s building by emailing us at office@tabernacle-baptist.com. By signing up you are allowing us to coordinate the volume of people throughout the week and schedule appropriate cleaning between uses.
* Only 25 people may be in the building at a time.
* We request that small groups use the gym as the spacing is easier, air volume is greater, and the cleaning is predictable. We will coordinate with custodial staff for full cleaning and disinfecting between use by small groups.
* Please, only use the public restrooms closest to the gym.
* Note that the kitchen will be CLOSED during this time.
* Please wipe down all used surfaces before and after use.
* The small group leader is a “volunteer,” whereas others in the small group are considered “attendees.” According to NY guidance, “at a minimum, screening should be completed using a questionnaire.” The small group leader will complete this three question survey when he or she signs up for building use by emailing the church office. Furthermore, an infrared thermometer will be available on site by request.