

Dear Calvary Chapel family, Maranatha (the LORD cometh) !

I am sure that you know by now that we have been moving forward to open the doors of the church sanctuary for worship on Sunday, May 31st, Pentecost Sunday. Approximately 3,000 churches across the state have agreed and planned together to enter their worship buildings on that date against the State Governor's edict. While churches have a mandate from the Word of God (**Hebrews 10:24–25** "... assembling of ourselves together, ...") and protection provided by the Constitution of the United States 1st and 14th amendments to do so, the governor ordered churches closed, abortion clinics, marijuana dispensaries and liquor stores open.

As anticipated, in an effort to avoid humiliation, embarrassment and to try to preserve his dignity, the Governor of California issued guidelines to reopen "houses of worship" on Monday, May 25th, which you can read for yourself - [covid19.ca.gov](https://www.covid19.ca.gov) . Some of those guidelines are good while others are unreasonable, unacceptable and unfairly applied to worship centers while not big box stores.

We can and we will keep you much safer than you have been when going to your local grocery store. This document will explain how we will accomplish this. We will be reopening all of our ministries one step at a time.

Having said that, because of the dangers related to COVID-19, we are asking all church members of all ages who have underlying health conditions such as breathing conditions, cancer treatments, suppressed immune systems, etc, to prayerfully consider staying home and continue worshipping via livestream during Phase I of our return.

Any church member who is uncomfortable at this time should feel free to watch the service online as we continue to livestream on YouTube which you can access directly or through our webpage and church app. Also, we will provide audio outside of the sanctuary area on the lawn so that those who wish to join and yet to remain outside of the building may do so.

### **Who Is at Risk?**

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
  - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

The following reopening steps and principals are not in any way an effort of capitulating to the government ruling and dictating to the church. The shepherd's job was not only to feed the flock

and protect them from wolves but to keep them healthy as well. In an effort to keep the beloved folks of Calvary Chapel healthy, mentally and physically, we are posting the following procedures. We are confident that you will support these guidelines for the first stages of our opening for the sake of others. **Philippians 2:3** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

## **Opening the Doors! Phase One.**

### **1) Sanitizer, Antiseptics:**

- a) The entire building will be professionally sanitized before you enter - your seating area, the hallways, restrooms and more
- b) Use the hand sanitizers provided or use your own as needed.
- c) Offering bags will not be passed from person to person during the first phase of reopening our church. Please make use of the stationary offering baskets inside and outside of the foyer.
- d) The forced air units will be circulating in fresh air during the entire service.

### **2) Masks:**

While they are recommended yet not mandatory in Riverside County, we will be using them for two things, so bring them.

- a) It is not feasible to have separate ingress and egress, so while entering and exiting the building, when in the foyer and hallways where safe distancing is not possible, everyone will be asked to wear a mask. Outside of the building and when you find your seating inside the auditorium masks will not be required.
- b) Anyone who chooses to wear a mask outside of the building or chooses to keep them on inside the sanctuary is saying to their brothers and sisters "please don't ask if you can embrace me, shake my hand or give me a fist bump. I am just not comfortable with that as of yet."

### **3) Safe distancing:**

- a) Household units will sit together inside the building safely separated from the next household unit. Every other row will be empty and household units will be expected to safely distance themselves from left to right.
- b) There will be no hugs, handshakes and the like inside the building at all, nor outside with anyone who is wearing a mask.

### **4) Children's ministries:**

There will be no children's classes during the first stage of opening the church.

- a) Therefore, our Sunday morning services will be shorter than normal.

- b) Entire families will be seated together in the sanctuary.
- c) When children's ministries do open, teachers and aids will have their temperature taken, they will wear disposable masks provided for them by the church, one time only.

#### **5) Restroom use:**

Restrooms will be open for use. When using the restrooms please use safe distancing as much as possible. Wash your hands and wipe down the sink area with paper towels when finished.

In an attempt to minimize restroom use in the first stages of opening the doors for worship, encourage everyone in the household unit to go before you leave the house.

While some medications act as a diuretic, so does coffee and tea. Keep in mind your consumption of diuretics and when possible minimize their use before church.

#### **6) Staff:**

All staff will have their temperatures taken when they arrive for duty.

All staff will be provided with masks and gloves when and where their use is necessary.

#### **7) Before you leave home:**

We would like to think that everyone would do the following ...

- a) Take yours and your household's temperature.
- b) Wash your hands.
- c) Minimize consumption of diuretics.
- d) Pray for the morning's service and the power of God's Word to transform lives.