



Phased Approach for In-Person Sunday Services Post COVID-19

The State of New Mexico has determined we will be allowed to have in-person worship services and Bible studies beginning June 7. We will be restricted to 25% of our capacity. We will invariably be making changes as we move forward so the key word continues to be “flexible.”

We will do our best to accommodate the NM COVID-Safe Practices. However, when those practices interfere with the exercise of our Biblical religious practices, we will exercise our rights to make alternate plans that will keep the spirit of the instructions if not the letter of those instructions. The current restrictions require that we ask all persons over three years old to wear a mask or face-covering.

We encourage all people to comply with the NM Department of Health guidelines regarding close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. As always, we request that people who are experiencing symptoms of any virus to not attend in-person services.

For the first in-person worship service open to members and community after these several weeks of quarantine, here are some things to know:

- We will be restricted to 25% of capacity. Our Worship Center capacity is 566. This will likely restrict attendance for each service to 141. This 25% capacity also applies to all of our classrooms.
- We are developing a plan to offer two worship services and two Sunday Schools at the 25% capacity. **We will have Sunday School and Worship at 9 am and then Sunday School and Worship at 10:30 AM.** Three classes have agreed to meet for Sunday School at 9 AM—Journey, Celebrate and Joy. All of the other classes will meet at 10:30 AM. This will help us with our restrictions on both the Worship Center capacity and classroom capacities. Depending on how many people attend which classes, we may need to adjust this moving forward.
- We will only offer Preschool Care and Children’s Church for the 9 AM Worship Service. The volunteer leaders in these ministries will be required to wear masks and gloves. All of the preschoolers, children and volunteer leaders will have temperature checks before admission using an infrared thermometer. We are also developing other cleaning protocols for these ministries.
- We will recruit “non-contact” greeters/ushers for our Worship Services. Our greeters/ushers will be asked to wear gloves and masks/face-coverings. They will

Emmanuel Baptist Church
211 West 20th Street - Farmington, NM 87401
Office (505) 327-4771 Fax (505) 327-3571
www.ebfarmington.com



EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

assist people in finding an appropriately socially distanced place to sit. They will also keep a count of attendance to insure we do not exceed our restricted capacity.

- We will recruit Worship Intercessors. They will be responsible for a section of the Worship Center to pray for the participants in their area. They will encourage and escort guests to come and meet the Pastor following the worship service at the Information Center.
- We will receive our offerings and Connection Cards in our offering buckets at the doors rather than passing the buckets.
- When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we will use one-time use packaging.
- We will recruit Cleaning Crews to wipe down all public spaces (backs of pews, door handles, restroom areas, etc.) between the services. They will work under the supervision of our custodial staff.
- We will continue to provide digital services (live-streaming on our website, Facebook Live and YouTube) for individuals/families feeling health vulnerable while communicating the need for sensitivity within our church family for those who make decisions that do not match our own.
- We will evaluate weekly and make adjustments as necessary. We will encourage feedback.
- We will monitor attendance and restrictions to determine when to add or eliminate worship services.
- For Sunday School classes that meet at the 9 AM time, they will be responsible to sanitize their classrooms since another class may be using that space at 10:30 AM. This will be done under the supervision of our custodial staff.

For all other Bible studies and ministries, here are some things to know:

- We will phase all other Bible studies and ministries (such as choirs, missions education, etc.) into our schedule as we are able. We do not have a definitive timeline for this. Again, the key word is "flexible." We know that you understand that we are attempting to balance many competing values. More than anything we want to do our best to ensure the safety of those who choose to participate, to be a good witness to our community, and to glorify God in our actions.