

Before You Reopen Campuses

Without a doubt, the collective church has faced the challenges of the COVID-19 epidemic with faith, innovation and compassion. Though our doors have been closed, our churches have been open to our communities in ways that we hadn't considered a few months ago. We have been accessible to the lives of our neighbors, supporting local charities and food banks, and living the Gospel outside our church walls. We've been amazed to see how you have all shifted your ministries online and we've seen God work through you as you reach your people in new ways.

We affirm that the church is essential to life. The local church is and will continue to be the guidepost to hope and life through Jesus Christ and its work is integral to the spiritual, emotional and mental wellbeing of all our communities.

As many of you are considering the options of reopening your campuses, we've been listening as you ask when and how you can do just that. One of the key values and guiding principles of the Southern Baptist Denomination is the autonomy of the individual church. With that in mind, it is our conviction to empower you to accomplish what God is calling you to do. Your leadership is integral in deciding what is best for your congregation while considering federal, state, and local regulations.

We have compiled a list of resources for you to prayerfully discern what is best for your ministry during this time.



1 Read about the Governor's Plan

<https://covid19.ca.gov>

We are still under a “Stay at Home” order in California. As of May 8, the stay home order was modified and moved into Phase 2. The Governor includes churches in Phase 3 and 4 with certain stipulations for opening, not in Phase 2. Individual Counties are approaching it differently.

2 Check in with your Insurance Company

Things to ask your agent about:

- General Liability information
- Religious Freedom Protection Coverage

3 Keep your Campus Safe

Clean your facilities properly as directed by the CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov>

4 Additional Considerations

- How would our programming have to change considering social distancing?
- Will your church be able to address changes to childcare, congregational worship and volunteer engagement?
- How will you communicate and enforce common sense health guidelines?

5 How and What to Communicate

- Good communication is clear, concise, and consistent
- Prepare people for what to expect
- Assure the congregation that the safety of each person is your priority
- Social media is a great platform of communication as well as your website and email.

6 Other Resources

[GuideStone](#)

[ERLC](#)

[LifeWay Christian Resources](#)