



FAQ - Reopening GMZ

As our region and country begin the process of reopening, our leadership team is preparing a phased reopening plan that mirrors the strategy outlined by the government.

White House Phased Re-open America Plan
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

Texas Government Order to Open Up Texas in Phases
<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas>

Open Texas Checklist for Churches and Places of Worship
<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas-/OpenTexas-Checklist-Churches-Places-of-Worship.pdf>

Austin Public Health Department
<http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>

WHAT IS OUR APPROACH TO REOPENING?

In our discussions as a leadership team we want to be beyond the peak in our area and roughly 6 weeks beyond the statewide reopening. We are watching the rate of infections, hospitalizations rates, and the rate of deaths in our area to see if these remain steady, decline or unfortunately peak again. Local experts tell us "it may take 3-6 weeks of data to provide sufficient information to monitor and analyze the success of any reopening policies".

HOW WILL WE REOPEN?

Our current approach is to reopen in phases with the primary goal to regain momentum in worship. When we reopen we will limit our in-person gathering capacity to 50% with social distancing. All other ministry meetings and events, children and student activities, will remain online.

WHEN WILL IN-PERSON GATHERINGS RESUME?

While we expect our phased approach to align with the phases that have been laid out by the government, everything hinges on the health of our community, the CDC's recommendations, and guidance from local health department.

WILL WORSHIP ACTIVITIES LOOK DIFFERENT?

At Greater we love hugs, handshakes and hanging out in the lobby but the way we interact with each other will look a little different for a while. When we gather together again in-person, we are doing everything we can to help it feel like Greater. Here are some precautions we are taking when we reopen:

- We will encourage all members who are in an at-risk category to stay home and join our online services.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be positioned at all entry doors.
- No food or drink will be served or allowed in the building.
- Ushers, Greeters, and Safety Team members will wear masks and gloves.
- Doors will be opened so that members do not need to touch door handles.
- We will practice social distancing while on the campus.
- Everyone attending service age 6 years and older are required to wear a face covering while in the building.
- All family units will be seated 6 feet away from each other.
- We will skip every other row and family units asked to keep 4 seats in between.
- We will dismiss by sections and not all at once to practice social distancing while exiting the building.
- GMZ Staff and volunteers will be trained on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Volunteers in the vulnerable category will be asked not to serve until Phase 5 is achieved.
- Offering will be taken through Pushpay via text, on our website and through offering boxes positioned at the worship doors and in the lobby.
- High touch surfaces and seats will be sanitized before and after each service.
- No more than 3 people will be allowed in the restrooms at a time to maintain social distancing.

WHAT IS OUR PROCESS FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING THE BUILDING?

We have had a cleaning service for over 13 years responsible for cleaning on Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday. At the start of the pandemic we engaged our cleaning service to disinfect the entire building once a month using an electrostatic sprayer on all surfaces and objects in the building for a more complete clean. In addition to this we will clean and disinfect the worship center, lobby, restrooms, and all high touch areas before and after each service.

WHAT ARE WE ASKING OF THOSE WHO ATTEND AN IN-PERSON SERVICE?

- Please understand that we have limited seating available with a maximum 50% capacity.
- Bring your own mask. Masks will be required for everyone ages 6 years and older.
- Sanitize your hands at our sanitation stations at the entrances.
- Please do not gather in groups while in the building.
- We all love to hug and shake hands, but for now we have to wave and say hello from a distance.

IS EVERYONE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE IN-PERSON SERVICE?

We would love to see you, but if you are at risk, have a compromised immune system, are sick, are showing signs of respiratory illness, currently have a fever above 99.6, have been around anyone that has been sick, or are over the age of 65, our Governor has strongly encouraged you to continue enjoying our online service from the comfort and safety of your own home.

This also applies if you have been in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 or live with someone that is at risk, sick, showing signs of respiratory illness currently have a fever above 99.6 or have been around anyone that's been sick in the past 14 days.

Additionally, if you are pregnant or have small children, the safest option is watching our online church experience from your home.

WHAT IS THE IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE TIME?

We will begin with a 10 am worship service time for our in-person gathering.

We will add a 12 pm

worship service time as we progress through the phases.

WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO STREAM THE SERVICE ONLINE?

Yes! We will continue to stream the service online at 10 am and will rebroadcast the service at 12 pm.

You can join us online at www.gmzaustin.org/watchlive, select Live Experience on the Greater Mt. Zion Church app, or tune in on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gmzaustin

WHAT ABOUT MINISTRY EVENTS?

In Phase 1 of our re-opening, ministries will gather online-only. In Phase 4, we will add Student and Children service, Men and Women's Gatherings, Marriage Gatherings, and Young Adult Gatherings.