

# Ebenezer Baptist Church Re-Entry Plan

Eric Taylor Sr. Pastor

## **Matthew 16:18**

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock, I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

We will continue to follow the guidance of the CDC with our precautions. All persons over the age of 2 must wear a face covering to enter the sanctuary. If you are sick, please stay home. If a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, remain in quarantine for 14 days.

## **Virtual Worship Services**

Live Broadcast: We will continue to broadcast using three platforms: Facebook Live, YouTube, and Zoom

## **Join Zoom Video Meeting**

For security purposes, please obtain the Zoom meeting details from a church official. These details are provided in the physical copy of this correspondence.

## **Website**

Current/recent broadcast -- <https://www.visitebenezer.org/>

Archived broadcasts – <https://www.visitebenezer.org/media>

## **Facebook**

[Ebenezer Baptist Church](#)

## **YOUTUBE**

[Ebenezer Baptist Church Baltimore](#)

\*This guidance is for all members and guests, whether you are vaccinated or not. \*

# SUNDAY WORSHIP

## CHECK-IN

Sunday services will take place in the sanctuary. All other meetings will continue to take place virtually. There will be no paper bulletins until further notice. Instead, all announcements will appear on the big screen.

## ENTERING:

- You must wear a mask to enter the church. It must remain on at all times. We will provide a mask if you do not have one.
- All members and guest will enter through the ramp door.
- Upon arrival, members and guests will report to the check-in located at the ramp entrance.
- At the check-in table, there will be hand sanitizer and masks. According to CDC guidelines, the church will collect and retain health-related information for each person who enters the sanctuary. You will be asked the following COVID-19 Screening Questions:

**-Have you had any of the following symptoms in the last seven days: fever or chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, or any other flu-like symptoms?  Yes  No**

**- In the past week, do you know if you have been in close (less than 6 feet), prolonged contact (more than 2-3 minutes) with someone with fever, cough, shortness of breath, flu-like symptoms, or a diagnosis of COVID-19?  Yes  No**

**-Have you traveled outside of the country in the past 14 days or been in contact with someone who has traveled outside the country in the past 14 days?  Yes  No**

**-If a member answers YES to either question (or there is reason to believe that this person is a health risk) you will not be allowed to enter the sanctuary by the direction for the Baltimore City Health Department.**

- The Emergency Response Team member will check your name off the attendance sheet and take your temperature. If you have a temperature of 100.4 or above, you will not be permitted into the sanctuary. You should self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance if additional symptoms develop.

### **What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

It can be difficult to tell the difference between COVID-19, a cold, allergies, and the flu just based on symptoms. Testing is needed to tell the difference between these conditions.

### **IN THE SANCTUARY:**

- There will be no other movement or group gatherings permitted in the sanctuary except for entering, exiting, and restroom usage. For example, greeting one another, altar calls, etc.
- Children must remain with their parents/guardians at all times.

- You will be greeted at the sanctuary door from the ramp by an usher. The usher will escort you to a seat. Ushers will not be able to accommodate preferential seating at this time. Additionally, you will not be allowed to save seats for anyone. Family members are permitted to sit together if they enter together. Otherwise, there will be no more than two people per row. You will sit every two/three rows. This distance will allow for 6 feet to the left, right, front, and behind.
- Members will read scriptures and songs from the screens. Bibles and Hymnals have been removed for your safety. If you need a bible, please see a deacon.

### **OFFERING:**

We wish that you continue your current method of giving. Here are numerous ways to give:

- (1) [Givelify](#)- Ebenezer Baptist Church
- (2) Mail to 306 E. 23rd Street
- (3) Drop mailbox at 306 E. 23rd Street
- (4) The finance ministry will place a contactless offering box at the sanctuary's entrance and exit. The security ministry and trustees will monitor this box.

### **RESTROOMS:**

Social distancing marks are on the floor in the hallway leading to the restroom.

Only two persons at a time in the bathroom. You will use hand sanitizer before re-entering the sanctuary.

## **COMMUNION**

Each member will receive a plastic baggy with the communion elements at the check-in station. During communion, you will temporarily remove your mask, take communion, and put the mask back on. The communion elements will go back in your baggy, and you will discard them in the receptacles when you leave the sanctuary.

## **EXITING**

All members should exit through the front door immediately at the end of the service. The ushers will direct your row to exit. Members still needing to access the ramp can use it.

## **TRIAGE AREA**

If a person falls ill during service, you should alert an usher, and someone from the ERT will escort you to the Deacon's Conference room. At that time, the nurse will contact a family member.

## **CLEANING PRACTICES**

High-traffic areas will be cleaned before and after services. In addition, a cleaning company thoroughly cleans the church once a week.

## **EBENEZER'S COVID RESPONSE AND PREVENTION**

### **If you develop COVID-19 symptoms:**

- If you have symptoms of COVID-19 you should get tested. While waiting for test results, you should stay home and away from others, including those living in your home, as much as possible. When it's not possible to stay away from others, wear a mask.

### **Testing:**

- Testing is only effective at preventing disease transmission if accompanied by isolation of ill individuals and quarantine of those who are exposed.
- Patients who require additional resources to effectively isolate, such as food assistance or social services, should call 2-1-1. For behavioral health support, please call the Crisis Information and Referral line at (410) 433-5175.

### **If you are COVID-19 positive:**

If you test positive for COVID-19 and have been in church, please do the following:

- Call Deacon Ransom at 443-253-2487
- Report your case to your local health department.
- Quarantine from Ebenezer for 14 days:
  - **Quarantine** is defined as the separation of close contacts who are not symptomatic, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of communicable disease. In other words, if you have been determined to be a close contact of someone with COVID-19, you will be provided instructions about the need for testing and self-quarantine from church for 14 days.

- Deacon Ransom will work with the health department to determine close contacts. The church is not responsible for contact tracing.

**-Close Contact:** Close contact is defined as persons sharing a residence or living in congregate housing, roommates, intimate partner, and situations in which strict physical distancing is not possible and in which people interact closely at a distance less than 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes. Wearing mask or not is taken into account in this definition.

**These measures are to ensure your safety at Ebenezer Baptist Church. We will continue to monitor the guidance from the CDC and update our protocols as necessary. In the meantime, please use these preventive measures.**

### **PREVENTION MEASURES:**

People can protect themselves and others from the COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses by taking the following precautions:

- Get completely vaccinated which includes the booster shot!
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- When coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home from work, school, church or any public activity.
- Wearing a mask/face covering while indoors.
- Practice good health habits.

Source: <https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/>