

East Point Assembly of God  
Phase I – Reopening Worship Services  
Date: 05/31/20



Message from your board and pastor:

We are extremely excited about resuming our services and will need everyone's cooperation to help make this successful and ensure our in-person services can continue. We will review updated guidelines by the CDC and our local officials often and make adjustments as necessary. We remain flexible during this time and will communicate changes immediately to our church congregation. We look forward to seeing our church filled with laughter, praise, love, fellowship, and our Heavenly Father's spirit.

Use the following FAQ's to educate you on the plan for resuming services, what is to be expected, and how to plan for your arrival.

**When will church services resume?**

Sunday, June 7 10:45am

Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm

At this time, we are resuming Sunday morning worship service and Wednesday night service. There will be no Sunday evening service during Phase I.

**What ministries will be available upon reopening?**

Sundays:

- Nursery (open concept)
- Toddler Church
- King's Kids (Children's Church)
- Worship Service

Wednesdays:

- Nursery (open concept)
- Royal Rangers
- Girls' Ministries
- Legacy Youth
- Worship Service

### **What measures are being taken to ensure the church building is a safe environment?**

- Weekly cleaning - A thorough, weekly cleaning will continue by our cleaning company.
- Cleaning after each service - Each time the church is occupied, additional cleaning will be done in all the areas that were accessed and touched to ensure everything is properly sanitized. All nursery and toddler church toys will be thoroughly sanitized after each service.
- Enforced social distancing - Staff will assist in managing proper distancing, including in the classrooms, hallways, bathrooms and in the sanctuary.
- Sanitization stations - We will have multiple stations set up with sanitizer.
- Doors propped open - Main entrance doors to the church and the sanctuary will remain propped open until services begin to minimize contact and touch.
- Signage - Will be displayed in main areas, providing instructions that will be visible to all.
- Digital announcements - Church programs will not be provided. Instead, we encourage everyone to check out the church website and Facebook page for upcoming events and information.
- Online giving - We ask that everyone who can, to give online. Tithing envelopes will be given upon request and we will have a locked giving box located on the back wall of the sanctuary for your gift to be dropped off and kept safe. All giving will be counted after the church services in a safe environment under dual control, as usual.
- Temperature checks - We will have a non-contact thermometer to take temperatures of children before they attend their class. If they have a fever, they will not be able to stay.
- Water fountains out of service - Water fountains, including the foyer, back hall area, and the gymnasium, will be covered and signs will be displayed that say they are unavailable.

### **Is there anything we (the congregation) can do to help minimize the risk to others?**

Yes. If you are showing signs of illness (fever, chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, cough, etc.) please do not come for our in-person worship services. Services will continue to be streamed online. We ask that you all take extra precaution by checking your temperature before leaving home. If you or a household member has a fever 100.4 or higher, stay home. We want to ensure that sickness is not spread. Use the restroom before services to limit person-to-person contact and minimize the amount of cleaning behind each person. Once directed to a seat, please do not change seats. Demonstrate your love and friendliness through your words, please do not hug, shake hands or stand closely to others. Masks are not required, but if you more comfortable wearing a mask, please feel free to do so.

### **How many people will be able to occupy the sanctuary within the guidelines?**

We can safely seat 75-80 guests for each service.

### **What happens when more guests arrive over the 75-80?**

We will have an overflow room set up where additional seating will be made available. A TV will be set up, so a LIVE feed of the service can be watched and they can feel a part of the service.

### **What if all available seating is taken, including the overflow area, and more guests arrive?**

If we reach full capacity, including the overflow room, the building will be closed to additional guests. We have great news, though. They will be able to join through services posted online. We have to abide by set guidelines to guarantee in-person services will continue to be open and available each week.

### **Will there be open seating, meaning we can sit where we want?**

In order to fit as many as we can safely in the sanctuary, ushers will direct you to available seating based on the number within your party/family and within 6 ft. of others. We will do our best to make accommodations for all, but we ask that everyone in your party/family walk in together and sit together. We need everyone to work with us, so that as many as possible can join services in-person.

### **How will the various children's/youth ministries handle social distancing and limiting personal contact?**

Leaders will arrange their class plans, activities, and such around the same guidelines being used in adult services.

- **Toddler church** is made up mostly of children who are family, but we will still do our best to keep them split. Class will still be held in the Rainbow Room. We will limit the amount of toys, books, puzzles, etc. for easy cleaning.
- **King's Kids (children's church)** will be held in the Legacy Youth Room in the gymnasium. All furniture will be removed and replaced with plastic chairs that will be properly spaced out. This allows for a more controlled environment and easy cleaning. Only one entrance to the gym will be open to limit access. Parents will drop off their child(ren) at the door at the top of the ramp/hill. There will be a total of 3 adults and at least 2 teens/adults to manage the children during service.

- **Girls' Ministries and Royal Rangers** will continue as normal. We have a limited amount of attendees and have leaders who have volunteered to rotate each week.
- **Legacy Youth** will use the same seating arrangement as King's Kids.
- **Open Gym on Wednesday Nights** - This has been temporarily suspended. Each class/ministry will release their children/students to their parents. We will not have the gymnasium available for open play-time to minimize person-to-person contact and support social distancing.

### **What will the operations of the nursery be like?**

We will have an open nursery concept, where parents or a family member can take the infant/toddler (age 0-3 yrs), if needing to leave the service, and can keep an eye on them. Minimal toys will be available and the service will be streamed on the TV, so that they do not miss the service. A church staff member will not be working in the nursery. We want to limit our staff and volunteers' contact with individuals for their safety. Snacks will not be provided.

### **How will leaving the church service and gathering children from their ministries be handled?**

**Exiting the building** - Pastor will call row by row to exit. Please wait to exit until your row is called. We need to keep everything in an orderly fashion. Do not congregate in the foyer or entry of the building. Staff will be stationed throughout the common areas to keep the flow of traffic moving.

**Gathering your child(ren)** - Children will not be released freely. Upon exiting the sanctuary, please go immediately to pick up your child(ren). Parents must come to their classroom or the gymnasium (door at the top of the hill).

All of this is necessary, as we need to quickly empty the building in order to complete offering count and a deep cleaning of all areas accessed: bathrooms, nursery, toys, tables, chairs, pews, door handles, sound room and equipment, etc. This will take an extensive amount of time. Once you exit the building, you cannot re-enter, and you are responsible for yourself and your children.

### **Will services continue to be streamed online?**

Yes. Our technology crew has been working endless hours to make this possible each week for you. Once in-person services resume, the video setup will continue, but space will be limited. This means the online streaming quality will be different. Please be patient as we are working with limited technology and learning as we go. We are working to perfect this and make it a pleasant streaming experience as possible. We thank you for your patience!

**Will ministries be able to hold events?**

Yes, but all ministries will have to adhere to the same guidelines. Please consult the pastor and/or the board before planning your first event, so direction can be provided and expectations set.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact our church office at 813-621-2350 or send us an email at [contactus@eastpointag.com](mailto:contactus@eastpointag.com).