



## The People's Community Baptist Church Coronavirus Status and Procedures Updated: September 2021

As The People's Community Baptist Church closely monitors the progress of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) throughout our nation and region, we are taking measured steps to prepare for any potential impact on our community. We are praying for those who have been affected by the virus and for God's protection over us all. Please partner with us in this prayer and take practical measures to mitigate the spread of the virus in your own lives.

### CHURCH OPERATING STATUS

#### **Current Operating Status: Closed**

The People's Community Baptist Church will remain closed until further notice. We encourage you to continue to participate in our virtual worship services, Bible studies and activities as we prepare for a safe reopening. Many of the ministries continue to meet online as well. If you need information about your ministry's virtual meetings, please email your ministry leader.

There is limited staff on duty on various days and times of the week. Currently access to the building is confined to Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 am to 3 pm and Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm. However, building access is strictly limited and must be pre-arranged. While we are closed, there are several ways to contact us:

- Email [info@tpcbc.org](mailto:info@tpcbc.org) for general inquiries;
- Call 301-384-2601 Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., if you would like to speak to a receptionist; or
- Email the Church Administrator, [dmcotton@tpcbc.org](mailto:dmcotton@tpcbc.org). Include "Building Access" in subject line.

#### **In Person Bible Study Status: Suspended**

In person Bible study has been suspended until further notice. Please stay tuned to the Church website for updates on virtual bible study sessions.

#### **Worship Services: Online**

Worship services are available for your virtual attendance until further notice. Worship under the tent is available every other Sunday at 11 a.m. Space is limited. All services are broadcast via social media for your convenience. Please stay connected and join us during our regular service times of 7:45 a.m. and 11 a.m., by visiting [www.tpcbc.org](http://www.tpcbc.org); Youtube [@TPCBC](https://www.youtube.com/TPCBC) or Facebook [@ThePeoplesCommunityBaptistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/ThePeoplesCommunityBaptistChurch).

## Tithes & Offerings **Online & Mail-In**

If you would like to continue your tithes and/or offerings during this time, there are several ways you can give to the church:

- Online: visit [www.tpcbc.org/way-to-give](http://www.tpcbc.org/way-to-give) and select one of the digital giving options.
- Cash App: you must have the app. Make payment to [\\$tpcbc](#)
- Mail: You can send a check to the following address: TPCBC, ATTN: Trustees, 31 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905. Please make checks payable to TPCBC.

We thank you for your faithful contributions during these unique times.

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**Traveler Update:** CDC has issued an order that requires face masks to be worn by all travelers while on public transportation (which includes all passengers and all personnel operating conveyances). People must wear masks that completely cover both the mouth and nose while awaiting, boarding, disembarking, or traveling on airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares as they are traveling into, within, or out of the United States and U.S. territories. People must also wear masks while at transportation hubs (e.g., airports, bus or ferry terminals, train and subway stations, seaports) and other locations where people board public transportation in the United States and U.S. territories.

Operators of public conveyances and transportation hubs must use best efforts to ensure that any person on the conveyance wears a mask when boarding, disembarking, and for the duration of travel or while entering or on the premises of the transportation hub.

The following categories of people are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask:

- A child under the age of 2 years;
- A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, for reasons related to the disability;
- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.

People on board the following categories of conveyances are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask:

- Private conveyances operated only for personal, non-commercial use;
- Commercial motor vehicles or trucks, if the driver is the only person in the vehicle or truck;
- Conveyances operated by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) as long as the operator of the conveyance follows all DOD requirements to prevent spread of COVID-19.



## How Are We Stopping the Spread?

The safety of our members, staff and visitors is our utmost concern. We are taking the following precautions at TPCBC toward a safe and healthy reopening:

- **Face Coverings.** All persons are required to wear a face covering while on the campus grounds.
- **Daily Temperature Readings.** We now keep a temperature record at the entrance of the buildings. Please be patient while your temperature is taken with the digital thermometer, maintained and provided by the staff and volunteers. Your reading, name and contact information is recorded daily as this is our best way of maintaining the safety of all who enter.
- **Touchless Hand Washing.** We have improved our public facilities by installing automatic faucets in our restrooms to accompany the touchless paper towel and soap dispensers. Please feel free to wash your hands when you enter the building, using your paper towel to turn the door knobs as you exit the restroom.
- **Providing hand sanitizer.** There are hand sanitizer stations at each entrance, wall-mounted stations throughout our buildings' common areas as well as our classrooms and meeting spaces. Please use those when you are unable to wash your hands.
- **Disinfecting the building.** The surfaces within the Sanctuary, banquet hall, classrooms, meeting rooms, and offices are cleaned and disinfected daily. The housekeeping staff have been well informed on performing health and safety cleansing practices suggested by the County, State and CDC.
- **Socially Distant Seating/Spacing.** All building areas have been measured for County, State and CDC recommended capacities for individual patron safety. As the regulations on gatherings and groupings relax we are already preparing for your safety in this way.

## COVID-19 PREVENTION



## How to wear a fabric mask safely



Wash your hands before touching the mask.



Inspect the mask to see if it is dirty, damp, or damaged.



Cover your nose, mouth and chin without leaving any gaps on your face.



Remove the mask by touching the elastics only.



Wash it with soap or detergent once a day to reuse it.

# How Can You Help Stop the Spread?

## **In General**

- Wear a mask or face covering at all times when you are on the campus grounds. If you do not have a face covering, limited supplies of extra masks are available on the campus when you arrive.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth and others with unwashed hands.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water as often as you can. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- If you are not near a sink, use hand sanitizer. Sanitize all of the skin on your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Refrain from shaking your hands to dry them.
- Engage in respiratory etiquette by coughing and sneezing into the bend of your elbow.
- Sanitize freshly touched surfaces in your home, school or office daily.
- Avoid coming in close contact with those who appear unwell.
- Please respect the limitations on building capacity, as this has helped us avoid a crisis within our facilities thus far.

## **Educate Yourself**

- Learn the additional measures that high risk and vulnerable individuals should take.
- When in doubt, talk with your personal healthcare professional for guidance.
- Stay up to date on current events within your County and State for further information.

## WHAT IS COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. COVID-19 is a new virus that hasn't caused illness in humans before. Worldwide, COVID-19 has resulted in thousands of infections, causing illness and in some cases death. Cases have spread to countries throughout the world, with more cases reported daily.

## **How COVID-19 spreads:**

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs
- Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to COVID-19.

The vast majority of people recover from this infection. Most people will have mild or moderate symptoms. People and those with pre-existing medical conditions have a greater risk for more serious illness.

