

Northminster Reopening Guidelines - April 2021

Our future posture to reopening will attempt to be **adaptable and responsible**. The previous re-opening grid has proven to be too rigid, we recognized this in the fall of 2020 when we voted to restart in-person worship while we were still in red.

- We need **flexibility** because the situation changes almost weekly.
- We need **responsibility** because we care about each other.

Our primary purpose as set out in the Bible and the Book of Order is not easily accomplished with a rigid grid. Ultimately, everybody is agreed we want encourage ministry not hinder it, and that it is important to do this in a responsible manner.

So we propose that our staff and lay leaders...

- Be guided by current public health protocols and the church re-opening guidelines below.
- The language of “guided” and “guidelines” is intentionally used to leave openness to personal judgement.
- The Session always has the right to tighten things up if they feel it is wise to do so.

Assumed Guidelines for Reopening

- In all areas, masks and distancing on campus continue until state guidelines are revised or otherwise stated below
- These guidelines may be revised should the pandemic situation worsen, or improve dramatically, as the situation warrants
- Continue to assess room usage and cleaning protocols as church activity levels change and make adjustments where necessary

Areas of Consideration:

- **Worship**
 - Northminster Online will continue to be a top priority moving forward. In-person worship will continue
 - All singers and speakers can unmask during singing/speaking, but need to re-cover when not speaking or singing until state masking guidelines change. See “Choir Singing” below
 - Seek alternate solutions to distancing as any one service grows to capacity as distancing recommendations suggest
- **Sessional Committees** (Session, Staff Development, Missions, Finance, Deacons, Trustees, Worship, Discipleship, Nominating)
 - Continue Northminster committee meetings online
- **Northminster Small Groups, Bible Studies, Sunday School**
 - In-person with Meeting OWL for those who prefer to remain remote as space and technology permits
- **Nursery, Kids & Youth Programming and Nursery Care**
 - Resume with masks (Kids K+) and distancing
- **Choir Singing**
 - Continue to monitor recommendations and adjust as we can
 - Consider in-person, unmasked choir rehearsals as choir members are comfortable
- **Weddings/Funerals**
 - Resume with masks and distancing
- **Outside Groups**
 - Resume Outside Groups as facility availability and subsequent cleaning procedures permit. Continue with current practice of securing Certificate of Liability Insurance from reoccurring groups, however no waivers for “one-off” groups