

## FAQ's in RESPONSE to COVID 19

**Q:** How was HUMC's COVID 19 response plan/protocols developed and by whom?

**A:** After prayerful conversations with lay leaders and following guidelines and recommendations from the Bishop's office, the state and federal authorities, as well as choral advisories, the pastors and staff drafted a reopening protocol that would minimize the risk to those vulnerable to the COVID 19 virus and provide for a safe process of returning to in-person worship.

**Q:** How long will we be following these protocols?

**A:** The protocols will be in place until such time as church and government authorities feel it is safe to resume in-person worship without restrictions.

**Q:** Why are the protocols so strict? Not strict enough?

**A:** After prayerful conversations with lay leaders and following guidelines and recommendations from the Bishop's office, the state and federal authorities, as well as choral advisories, the pastors and staff drafted a reopening protocol that would minimize the risk to those vulnerable to the COVID 19 virus and provide for a safe process of returning to in-person worship.

**Q:** Why can't we provide worship as we used to in-person for those who want it and let those who are concerned watch from home?

**A:** We are providing worship online and will resume in-person worship as soon as we have established the proper sanitation procedures. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some individuals may be asymptomatic and not display any medical issues and inadvertently spread the virus to others. So we need to be diligent in having precautionary measures in place to prevent the possible spread of this virus.

**Q:** Who is the point person for COVID 19 concerns, and how does a congregant contact him/her?

**A:** Please send concerns, questions or suggestions to [info@hillsideumc.org](mailto:info@hillsideumc.org).

**Q:** How will the church respond if someone tests positive for COVID 19 after attending a service?

**A:** If someone tests positive for COVID 19 we will notify those who were in attendance and encourage them to contact their personal physician for direction.

**Q:** How is the church being sanitized and how often? What chemicals are being used?

**A:** Cleaning and sanitizing will follow all CDC recommended guidelines regarding procedures and products. All high-touch surfaces and restrooms in use will be sanitized at least once during the event. Restrooms, lobby and any public areas that were used will be cleaned and sanitized after the event. All other areas (not accessed) will be regularly cleaned and sanitized according to normal cleaning schedules.

**Q:** What happens if someone becomes ill during a service?

**A:** At that moment we will not likely know the cause of the illness so will assist the person in getting home or getting appropriate medical help as Hillside previously has.

**Q:** How will the seats be marked in the worship venues?

**A:** In the Sanctuary there will be ropes sectioning off the middle portion of each pew which is to remain empty. Every other pew will be utilized for seating. In Celebration Hall chairs will be physically grouped providing the appropriate space between family sections.

**Q:** When will Sunday school classes for adults resume?

**A:** Sunday school classes for adults will resume September 6<sup>th</sup>. Some classes may elect to continue meeting electronically past that date.

**Q:** When will the nursery and other children activities resume?

**A:** *August 2nd* - Kids 3rd -5th grade will meet in small groups with staff leaders only.

*August 9th* - Kids 1st-5th grade will meet in small groups with staff leaders only.

*August 16th* - Older Preschool (preK 4 and T5), (new) Kindergartens, and 1st Graders will meet in The Clubhouse. (If numbers and guidelines allow) 2nd – 5th Graders will meet in The Foundry (Children’s Suite) (If numbers and guidelines allow)

Volunteers return:

*August 23rd* - Toddlers and Younger Preschool (3 year olds) will meet in classrooms. Older Preschool (preK 4 and T5), (new) Kindergartens, and 1st Graders will meet in The Clubhouse. 2nd – 5th Graders will meet in The Foundry (Children’s Suite)

*August 30th* - Nursery will open back up

**Q:** When will communion resume? How will it be done?

**A:** If no spikes in COVID-19 occur and CDC and government officials see the pandemic subside, our projected date is the first Sunday of September 2020 to resume communion in our normal fashion.

**Q:** When will weddings, funerals and other special services resume?

**A:** Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.