

## **Covid 19 Relaunch Strategy**

### **Showers of Blessing Apostolic Church Relaunch Strategy**

June 23, 2020

Over the past three months, the world community has experienced a pandemic that has not been seen since the 1918 Spanish Flu. As of June 14, 2020, there are 7.69million cases of the Covid 19 Coronavirus worldwide and 428,000 deaths. This is a very serious disease. No country has been spared.

In Alberta, we have experienced 7,453 cases and 151 death. As of June 15<sup>th</sup>, the province has entered phase 2 of its re-launch strategy. This allows for faith communities resume public gatherings and permit as many people as they can accommodate providing the 2M/6ft social distancing requirements can be met.

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses and entities are required to:

- ☑ implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- ☑ provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ☑ ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- ☑ comply, to the extent possible, with the COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

Showers of Blessing Church is committed to the safety and health of its congregants (worshippers), staff and volunteers. As such the aforementioned priority will be the guiding force of all decisions related to the re-launch of our in-person service. We will be guided by the health orders and recommendations from Alberta Health Services and will use the guidance of the document: *GUIDANCE FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP*. Please see a summary of our relaunch strategy listed below;

#### **Risk mitigation**

Protecting Congregants and Members of the public

- Showers of Blessing will clearly identify seats that are available for occupancy while maintaining 2M/6ft social distancing. This will be for all congregants except those from the same household or cohort families.
- Congregants must RSVP their intention to attend Sunday's service to the church office by 3pm each Friday. We will ensure that all those who desire to come to the house of God for worship have an opportunity to do so but may have to do so on a rotational basis.

- Options for participation in remote services will continue until further notice.
- Congregants are **strongly** encouraged to wear a mask to in-person services.
- All congregants are required to bring a mask to services.
  - We are very concerned about your health and safety; Dr. Hinshaw has determined that **singing is a high-risk transmission activity** (droplets coming out of the mouth during such activity). As such, should you choose to join in singing during the service, we will **require that you don your mask while singing**. The praise team is exempt from this requirement but must maintain the necessary social distancing.
- We welcome members and visitors of all ages to join us for in-person worship. During this relaunch transition however, we strongly encourage, those who are over the age of 65 to seriously consider the health implications of their in-person attendance. We are concerned about your health and according to the health authorities, those in this category are at a higher risk for serious complications should they acquire this disease.
- All congregants are required use to the on-line self-screening tool prior to attending each service. (<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/journey/covid-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>). If you do not have access to this on-line tool, a copy of the screening questions is attached for your convenience. Should you score a positive on any of the indicators, we ask that you refrain from coming to service and call 811.
- We would love to pray for you if you are not well but ask that you do not attend the service if you are feeling ill. Please call the church and we will be sure to include you during our time of prayer.
- We are asking parents, families and caregivers to help keep children under 2 years old in proximity and not allow them to wander. We want to ensure our littlest members are kept safe. Please also ensure that your older children adhere to the protocols in this document especially that of social distancing. We know that they are excited to see their friends again, but their safety is of utmost importance to us.
- To support Public Health contact tracing in the event an attendee test positive, we will be collecting the name and phone number of each attendee
  - Please note that this information remains the property of Showers of Blessing Church and is only turned over the Alberta Health Services should there be a positive test and contact tracing is necessary. Collected information is kept for a maximum of 14 days and then destroyed.
  - Any personal information that is collected for COVID-19 contact tracing can only be used for this purpose, unless an individual provides their consent
  - Provision of this information is voluntary; however, we strongly encourage you to comply, in the event you are unwittingly exposed to this virus and need to be notified.

### **Protecting Staff and Volunteers:**

- All Ushers, Care Ministers and Altar Workers will be provided information and training about appropriate physical distancing, facility specific risk reduction measures, and proper respiratory and hygiene practices.
- All Ushers, Care Ministers and Altar Workers will be provided non-medical masks to minimize risks if they are unable to maintain 2m physical distance from congregants

### **Interpersonal Interaction:**

- It is our custom to greet each other by shaking hands, hugging or otherwise touching. This type of interaction, however, violates the 2m rule and can jeopardize the health of you and of your brethren. Please refrain from engaging in these actions except between members of the same household or cohort families. We encourage you to wave, nod or find other creative ways to let others know how much you love them.
- We always ask that everyone follow proper respiratory etiquette practices. These practices include coughing and sneezing into the elbow or tissue, discarding tissues into a lined garbage bin and washing hands afterwards.
- If you require prayer during or at the end of service, the altar is always open. As usual, we will be happy to pray for you. We will pray without personal contact at this time and unless you have a family member who agrees to anoint you with oil, we will not do so.

### **Offertory**

- Online giving options including e-transfers to [donations@showersofblessingchurch.com](mailto:donations@showersofblessingchurch.com) utilizing the giving tab on the Showers of Blessing website, and using our interac machine will continue to be preferred and received with gratitude. However, donations will be accepted at the table outside of the sanctuary throughout the service. As such, givers are encouraged to be mindful to time their giving with respect to appropriate social distancing (i.e., wait until others are finished giving before approaching the table). Also consider giving upon arrival on the way into the sanctuary. Please note, this protocol is subject to ongoing modification. You will be notified when modifications have been made.

### **Food:**

- Provision of food or drink for sale or free of cost, will not be permitted at this time due to the increase risk of spreading COVID-19.
- If food is desired after service, we encourage you to go to a licensed food service establishment where measures have been implemented in line with the latest public health measures to ensure the safe preparation and serving of food.

- The water fountain in the main lobby will be closed during this re-launch. We encourage you to bring bottled water with you to church.

### **Facilities:**

- If you are coming to service, please allow yourself plenty of time to enter the building and be seated before the service starts
  - Service will start promptly at 10:30am and as congregants must enter the building and sanctuary 6 feet apart, it will take some time to get everyone seated.
  - Please follow the direction of the Ushers and Care Ministers as you approach and enter the building and Sanctuary. They are there to help you maneuver these new formalities.
  - We know we have not seen each other for some time, and we are happy to see each other. Your health is very important to us, so we ask that you please do not congregate in the foyer but go directly into the Sanctuary.
  - Please cooperate with our Ushers and Care ministers. They are there to ensure your safety.
- Exiting the facility
  - To ensure we maintain social distancing, you will be dismissed by households or section in an orderly fashion at the end of the service. We know you want to greet your brethren. It is summer and you may want to do so in the parking lot as that affords us more space. It remains important to maintain social distancing even during this time. We encourage you to wear your mask during this time also.

### **Cleaning and Sanitization**

- We respectfully ask that you sanitize your hands upon entering the building
- We will ensure that you enter a clean and sanitized building for each service
- High touch areas outside of the sanctuary will be cleaned again at 11am (during service)
- After service is finished and everyone has left the building, the church will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the church

I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME, LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD (!)-

*Psalm 122:1*

*Showers of Blessing Church Relaunch Committee*