

**Re-opening Plan for New Mexico Churches
May 14, 2020**

Phase One

The New Mexico Governor has announced that we are beginning the first phase of a re-opening plan on May 16. While the statewide “stay-at-home” order remains in place during this phase, churches may begin to resume ‘in-person’ worship services with specific limitations. This is a voluntary opportunity to gather for church services and members should make their own decision regarding whether to attend at this time. As always, anyone who is sick or demonstrating the symptoms of COVID-19 should remain at home.

Guidelines for Houses of Worship/Churches

1. The maximum number of people that may be present at any event (worship service, prayer meeting, baptisms, funerals, weddings, graduations, etc.) is limited to 10% of the Official Occupancy rating of the church sanctuary.
2. The church facility should be cleaned very well before re-opening. It should also be cleaned during and after each use, and all frequently touched surfaces should be disinfected often.
3. Hand sanitizer should be provided in restrooms and public spaces and members should be encouraged to use it often.
4. Social distancing guidelines continue. People should maintain a six-foot separation from each other as they are moving around and when they are seated.
5. There should be no physical contact, handshakes or hugs.
6. Families should stay together and children should be supervised so they do not touch each other.
7. Both adults and children are required to wear a face covering whenever they are around people other than their family. Unfortunately, this is true even at church.
8. There should be a designated place for members to give their Tithes & Offerings. Offering plates should not be passed from person to person at this time.
9. Fellowship meals (potlucks) are not yet authorized.

Please abide by these simple, yet specific requirements during this phase of the re-opening plan so that we can continue on the path to a more normal worship experience. We are all anxious to have this very difficult challenge end as soon as possible and we pray for God’s continued blessings and protection for each of our members.

**Texico Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administration
Corrales, New Mexico
May 14, 2020**
