



STATEMENT ON PREPARATION AND PREVENTION

January 2021 (*revised*)

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to tarry, so do people's concern. While everyone seems to agree this illness is a serious concern, there is a lot of confusion being communicated. Information is always most accurate when it comes from a reliable source. Like all of you, we have continued to carefully monitor the situation with updates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in mind, and we will continue to do so in the coming days. We have put together an overview of the plans and precautions we are taking as a church for the protection of all who attend our services.

First and foremost, we want to make the safety of our members, their families, and our community, our number one priority. Our intent is not to diminish the seriousness of this virus, but to facilitate peace and calm in a rising wave of anxiety. While we take seriously the responsibility to prepare in the areas of protection and prevention, we must also place our trust in the God who is in control of all circumstances, including the one we presently face with this virus.

ACTION STEPS WE ARE TAKING NOW:

1. Beginning Sunday, February 7th, we will reopen with **in-person worship** at 11:00am. February 7th is our target date, but it is subject to change depending on the COVID-19 infection rate in our area. Every other pew will still be marked off to facilitate and encourage **social distancing**.
2. With current CDC Guidelines in mind, we have created and posted on rockvalebc.org our **COVID-19 Safety Measures for Reopening**. This document is located under the *Resources* tab.
3. Those who clean our facilities are making extra effort to **sanitize and disinfect** more thoroughly. In addition to their normal cleaning practices, they also use bleach to further disinfect all door handles, sink spigots, commode handles, and commonly used surfaces. Aerosol disinfectant will also be used to spray down everything before service on Sunday.
4. In addition to the continued cleaning practices we are doing, we have also contracted an individual to spray the interior of both buildings with **Biotab 7**, which is the same disinfectant used in Greenville County Schools and Anderson County Schools. This disinfecting will occur twice monthly.



5. We will **open necessary doors** to facilitate proper ventilation and to allow you to enter and leave without having to touch the door handles.
6. We encourage the pastor, members, and attendees to refrain from **hand-shaking** and close contact for the immediate future. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated during this temporary adjustment.
7. We have **postponed or cancelled** certain gatherings and events to limit exposure to crowds. Please watch our social media accounts or call your deacon for future updates.
8. As of now, Prisma and Bon Secours Hospitals have prohibited all visitors except immediate family. Therefore, for the immediate future the pastor and deacons will not be able to participate in **hospital visitation**. We will, however, make every effort to connect by phone with those in the hospital or preparing for surgery. Please continue to inform us of any hospital visits you may have. This prohibition is in effect for **nursing home visitations** as well.
9. We will not be passing the offering plates in the traditional manner, but you will still have **several ways to give**. You can drop your offering in the plates as you leave. You can participate in online giving by going to www.rockvalebc.org/give. You can mail your check to the church.
10. Those who have the responsibility to count and deposit the tithes and offering will be provided with **latex gloves**.
11. The **Bus and Transportation Ministry** will resume on Sunday mornings but will make every effort to minimize overcrowding on the bus. If needed, the bus will make multiple trips to keep riders safely distanced.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

1. Wash hands frequently and vigorously.
2. Wear a face covering and practice social distancing.
3. As much as possible, attempt to minimize contact with door handles, handrails, and other commonly touched surfaces.
4. Cover your mouth with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
5. At the close of worship services, exit the building in a timely manner to prevent crowd congestion inside the building. Please feel free to fellowship outside.



6. Remain home if you become ill and/or feel uncomfortable with gathering in-person.

We will evaluate these policies daily and communicate future adjustments when needed. We know that *“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”* (2 Timothy 1:7). Let us continue to tarry through this health crisis with calmness, while taking the necessary steps to minimize risk. While we make informed and responsible decisions to take care of our church family, we ultimately trust the Lord. May God protect you and bless you.

Pastor Deane Harrison
Rockvale Baptist Church