

Questions to Consider for Reopening Air Force Chapels

Preparing the Installation and Chapel Community / Communications Planning

What are the minimum basic operations required to reopen the chapel while also observing measures which mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19?

How will you inform the commander, installation and chapel community about plans to reopen?

Will you scan body temperatures when worshipers arrive?

How will you clean and sanitize your facility and assure others the chapel will remain clean and safe over time?

What costs are associated with these cleaning efforts?

See: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Will you remove hymnals, Bibles, pens, information cards, etc., from chairs, pews and tables to prevent potential spread of the virus?

Will you allow use of bathrooms and drinking fountains in the facility?

Will you supply face masks at in-person services for those who arrive without them?

Will chapel offices or other rooms (library, kitchen, fellowship hall, etc.) also be open?

Determining Worship Service Times and Locations

Will you have people sign-up prior to attending the in-person service(s)?

Will you increase worship services but decrease duration to allow more to attend in-person?

What will the cleaning requirement/cost to resources and time be to do this?

Will you schedule a midweek service or host an outdoor or drive-up/parking lot service?

Musical Arts, Praise Teams, Bands, Choirs and Tech Support Teams

Should you use recorded music or fewer music team members by scheduling small rotations?

How will you ensure music stands, microphones and other equipment are regularly cleaned/sanitized?

Staff Support, Greeters and Volunteers

How will you train ushers and greeters to assist attendees with maintaining safe social distances?

Will staff and/or volunteers monitor the use of bathrooms, drinking fountains and hand-washing, if these services are made available?

Will in-person pastoral counseling services resume and be provided at your reopened chapel or in a different location?

Conducting Worship Services

How will you celebrate the reopening of the chapel and the “welcome back” experience?

Will you limit or not use programs, worship guides and handouts?

How will you adjust seating configurations to allow for increased social distancing?

Will you provide hand sanitizer stations?

How will you manage distribution of communion and requests for baptisms?

How will you handle tithes and offerings?

How will you plan for orderly entrance and exit of the facility?

How will you ensure an orderly dismissal following the service?

Can exterior and/or interior doors be propped to stay open?

Children and Adult Small Group Programs, and Chapel Organizations

Will chapel organizations and small groups also start meeting again?

What measures are needed to protect the health and wellbeing of participants?

What is your plan for communicating when children/youth programs will resume (e.g., when area schools reopen)?