

# A Return to a Semblance of Normalcy in a Post-Coronavirus World

Published May 3, 2020

## Hillsdale Baptist Church Tampa, FL

*Notice: Hillsdale's policy and guidelines will be subject to adaptation as deemed necessary by church leadership.*

### 1. When will Hillsdale return to public services? - **Mother's Day – May 10<sup>th</sup> - 9:45 and 10:30**

- a. Voluntary attendance - We will not pressure our membership to attend out of a sense of obligation to the church. Members and guests will be free to choose for themselves whether or not to attend services. Live broadcasts will continue throughout the month of May.
- b. Worship services will be open to the membership and general public. We will advise caution to any whom the Center for Disease Control (CDC) considers at risk during the Coronavirus pandemic. We will encourage the following to continue to join us by video only:
  - 1) Young children and elderly (65+).
  - 2) Those with chronic medical conditions including, but not limited to:
    - Lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
    - Serious heart conditions
    - Immunocompromised - Including those undergoing cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications
    - Chronic Diabetes
    - Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
    - Liver disease
- c. We will encourage "physical distancing."

### 2. Precautions for public worship in the month of May.

- a. The church and school staff will continue to develop and follow a rigorous strategy for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting Hillsdale's facilities.
- b. All pews will be open for worshippers to "social distance" and give each other as much space as necessary to keep in accordance with social distancing guidelines. Families will be encouraged to sit as families. Parents will be strongly encouraged to keep children beside them at all times.
- c. Face masks\coverings will be encouraged, but not mandated.
- d. Water fountains will be wrapped to prevent usage. Attendees will be encouraged to bring their own bottled water. Bottled water will also be provided.
- e. The nursery and school areas of the building will be closed to the public. No child care will be provided in the month of May.

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- f. No handshaking, etc. for the foreseeable future.
- g. Church tithes and offerings will be given at the doors...Deacons\Ushers holding the plates and not passing them in the pews during the service.
- h. A minimum number of inner and outer exterior doors, and all interior auditorium doors will be propped open until service time and immediately after the end of the service, requiring no one to touch door handles. \* Ushers will open interior auditorium doors for attendees who need to exit during service times.
- i. No Greeters will be used. Bulletins will be available on either a lobby table or benches at each auditorium door for people to pick up themselves; ushers will be greeting and directing, but not passing out bulletins.
- j. Communication of the above will occur by verbal announcement beginning this Sunday, May 3, 2020. Announcements will follow in PowerPoint slides, Facebook postings, the church website, and through Deacon/Staff phone calls and emails.

### **3. Early June - Phase in public services.**

- a. Wednesday services will continue to be livestreamed only through the month of May. This will ensure proper cleaning in between Sunday Services out of an abundance of caution.
- b. We will re-evaluate the service schedule for June in the middle of May.
- c. No meal service will occur until at least August or September.

### **4. Policy and Procedures to protect people from unnecessary contact**

- a. For the foreseeable future, we will continue to encourage people to follow social distancing guidelines by avoiding handshaking, hugging, and any other physical contact.
- b. We will discontinue the traditional handshake and greeting during worship services. Twofold purpose:
  - 1) To avoid disrupting the spirit of worship during the service
  - 2) To remove pressure of unnecessary or unwanted contact
- c. We will ask members and guests to forego congregating in the lobby before and after services.
- d. Coffee shop will remain closed this summer.

### **5. We will be placing Hillsdale's policy and procedures in the bulletin and on the website throughout the month of May and June.**

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**Your input is welcome:** While we have endeavored to address all concerns that may arise, we invite you to express additional thoughts and concerns as we “return to a semblance of normalcy.”

1. What additional precautions would you like to see Hillsdale take?

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2. What concerns do you have that are not already addressed in this document? \_\_\_\_\_

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