

Welcome Back

A Plan to Safely Reopen Central Baptist Church Brantford

On June 8, 2020, Premier Ford made the following declaration... “Effective Friday, June 12, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., the province will increase the limit on social gatherings from five to 10 people across the province, regardless of whether a region has moved to Stage 2. Additionally, all places of worship in Ontario will also be permitted to open with physical distancing in place and attendance limited to no more than 30 per cent of the building capacity to ensure the safety of worshippers.”

As always, if you are feeling ill, or exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19, please watch from the safety of your home on Central Baptist Church’s Youtube channel.

We at Central want to ensure the safety of our people and choose to make this a top priority. That is why we have taken the time to prayerfully consider our plan to reopen and want to ensure adequate guidelines are in place to help facilitate this transition. It is particularly important that you understand that **we respect your decision to come when you feel the time is right for your family**. We also recognize the desire of many of our people to reconnect with their church family and want to be able to provide them with a clean, safe environment to do so. We also encourage you to continue to reach out to each other throughout the week to share greetings and pray for each other as being apart has been hard on all of us! Please understand that any and all activities outside of your home could result in an exposure to Covid 19. We feel these procedures are adequate according to the current guidelines as suggested by the Ontario Government and the Brant County Health Unit but attendance is at your own risk.

Phase One

I. Reopening Services Safely

A. Occupancy Restrictions

1. We will follow the provincial guidelines of limiting our services to 30% of the building’s occupancy.
2. In order to maintain Social Distancing, we will limit services to 120 attendees. We will accept reservations for services up to 100 people allowing room for guests.
3. We will anticipate starting back at Central with ONE service on Sunday morning at 10:30 am. A second service will be considered based upon demand or if provincial guidelines change.
4. Attendees are being asked to register online at www.cbcb rantford.ca or by calling the church office Tuesdays between 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.
5. **There will be no Sunday or Wednesday evening services until further notice.**

B. Social Distancing

Please observe the provincial guidelines of maintaining a safe distance of 2.0 m between you and others not of your household.

1. Upon arrival, please wait in your car if others are in close proximity (less than 2.0 m) or you notice a line at the door before making your way to the front doors of the church (facing Fairview Drive). Please do not “sneak” into the church using another door unless there is an emergency or you are one of our Pastors. If you require assistance entering the building, please drive to the rear doors of the foyer and wait for an usher to assist you into the church.
2. Please proceed directly through the front doors and down the main corridor toward the auditorium where our ushers will be happy to assist you to your seats. Markers will be in place at 2.0 m intervals. Seating will be filled systematically as people arrive. In order to assist with sanitization, pew cushions will be removed in the available rows (please bring a cushion with you if you need one but be sure to take it with you when you leave to avoid it being discarded).
3. We will make use of every second row of seating and in most cases can accommodate two families per row (as long as a 2.0 m distance can be maintained between families of the same household).
4. Families will be asked to sit together.
5. We ask that you cooperate with our ushers who have been trained to seat you systematically (not random throughout the auditorium). If you are expecting guests or would like to sit in proximity with others, please arrange to meet outside of the building and enter together so you will be seated near each other.
6. We look forward to seeing your family together in the auditorium and will not be providing children’s church or nursery at this time. Please bring colouring pages etc as you feel necessary for younger children. We ask that you keep in mind that the service will continue to be broadcast for those not able to join us and ask that if your child is overcome with sudden fits of joy that you quickly and quietly exit the auditorium.
7. As an added level of protection, one section of the church will be designated for persons wishing to wear masks throughout the entire service.
8. Once seated, please do your best to remain there until you are dismissed. A smile and a wave from your pew will have to do for now!

C. Nursery Facilities

1. Nursery facilities will be closed until further notice.
2. Change stations will be made available in the nursery lobby with an attendant ready to assist and sanitize the station after each use. A change table with sanitizer for personal use is also available in our barrier free washroom.
3. Please bring your own snacks for your children.

4. If mother's are required to nurse their child while at the church, please speak to the nursery attendant who will help you access the nursery area to a sanitized chair.

D. Bathrooms

We encourage you to use the bathroom prior to your arrival. However, we will limit the use of the washrooms to TWO persons at a time per room. Washrooms will be cleaned before and after the service. Disinfectant wipes will be made available for use at your discretion. Disposable gloves will be available at the washrooms.

II. Sanitizing our Building

A. Hand Sanitizing Stations.

1. There are clearly marked hand sanitizing stations throughout the building for your use.
2. Our greeters will have hand sanitizer for your convenience as you enter the church.

III. Miscellaneous

A. Masks

Masks are not a requirement according to the directive from the Premier's office except in "areas where social distancing is a challenge." At CBCB, we are requiring that **ALL ATTENDEES WEAR A MASK OR SHIELD** until you have reached your seats. Once service begins, you will be social distanced from others and may remove your mask, if you choose, to join in worship (except in areas designated to be worn at all times). You are encouraged to bring your own masks or shields.

Pastors, ushers and greeters will be wearing masks and gloves as they assist you prior to the service. In all things, we wish to make others feel safe while meeting legal requirements to protect our staff and those willing to serve.

B. Restricted Areas

In order to minimize the work required to sanitize the building, many areas in the church building will be restricted. These areas will be clearly marked and will include areas other than the main hallway, foyer, gymnasium, washrooms, nursery (for short term needs only) and the auditorium. We ask that all children keep a close eye on your parents and keep them as close as possible so they do not feel tempted to wander off or become boisterous with their adult friends. (You know how parents can be!! Thank you for taking care of them!!)

C. Activities other than church services

Activities will continue to be restricted on the church grounds without prior approval.

D. Offerings

You may continue to give online or bring your tithe envelope into a worship service with you. Offering boxes will be situated by the entry and exit doors for your convenience.

E. Flow of Traffic

In order to effectively social distance while at CBCB, we ask that you follow directions given by our ushers and deacons. With everyone's cooperation and by moving people in the same direction, we will eliminate bottle necks and people unnecessarily coming into close proximity of each other. Church will be dismissed by section and row to avoid congestion (from back to front as directed). We ask that you exit the building immediately upon dismissal as directed to either the front or rear doors. Once again, our ushers will be happy to assist you!

F. Bibles and Hymn Books

Pew Bibles and hymn books have been removed from the pews to avoid contamination. We ask that you ensure any papers, pens etc that you bring with you also leave with you to help protect our sanitization teams.

G. Fellowship

We understand how much we all miss fellowship. However, we are encouraging everyone to please leave the building immediately after each service.

Final Thoughts

In all things, please use common sense and self assess prior to entering the building. **If you or anybody in your social circle are ill, stay home!** If you are at church, please be respectful of the safeguards put in place, and maintain the recommended distance between others.

Thank you for your faithfulness to Central Baptist Church Brantford, we are excited to hear how God has worked in your life these last several weeks.

God bless and See You Sunday!!!!