



REOPENING PLAN
MEMBER'S GUIDE

» Before We Begin, Here Are **Some Helpful Definitions**

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- » People who are 65 years or older. People with chronic lung disease, asthma, serious heart conditions, diabetes, liver disease, chronic kidney disease or are immunocompromised.

WATCH PARTIES

- » Watch Parties are in-home events that will take place all over our city on Sunday. These parties should be hosted by Community Group members or other willing hosts and are both missional and communal. Watch Parties are environments where families, neighbors, and friends are welcomed into homes where people participate in worship, teaching, fellowship, and the sharing of meals.

NOTE: Mercy will provide training and resources to aid in hosting these parties. This is a great opportunity for Mercy's vision of a Gospel Awakening that starts in Charlotte to become a reality. Many people who have not yet heard or believed the gospel would be more willing and comfortable to come to a Watch Party in a person's home than a normal church service.

Our Plan Forward

Facilities Reopening Protocols

This document will outline the specific guidelines Mercy will employ to ensure that its campus(es) are properly cleaned, sanitized, and set up to allow for smooth and safe operations during in-person gatherings. These protocols will involve training various individuals as well as securing the necessary equipment and supplies needed for implementation.

PHASE	GOV. GUIDELINES	WORSHIP SERVICES	COM. GROUPS	MERCY KIDS	MERCY STUDENTS	MINISTRY EVENTS	DECISION POINT [FOR SHIFTING PHASES]
PHASE 1	Stay-at-home, >10 worship allowed outside, social distancing	Online Service Only	Online. D-Groups in-person	Online Service & Parent Resourcing	Online	Online and limited in-person	Government removes stay-at-home and allows worship gatherings inside for 10-99 people
PHASE 2	Stay-at-home lifted, larger groups allowed to gather inside for worship	Online Service & Mercy Watch Parties in homes	In-person (CG is different than Watch Parties)	Online Service & Watch Party resourcing	Online	Limited (in-person & virtual)	Government allows worship gatherings inside for 100+ people and Mercy's New Facility Reopening Protocols are in place
PHASE 3	Decreased restrictions on vulnerable populations, increased limit on people allowed at gatherings	Online Service, Mercy Watch Parties, and limited & modified onsite worship	In-person (CG is different than Watch Parties)	Online Service, kids attend worship service/watch party & limited childcare available	Online and limited in-person (if comp activities resume with <18 yrs)	Limited (in-person)	Government removes gathering restrictions and the community resumes activities involving kids (i.e. sports, camps, schools, pools, etc)
PHASE 4	NO DEFINITIVE PHASE	Online Service, resume on-campus worship (service # and times TBD)	Return to normal	Return to normal	Return to normal	Return to normal	Government and/or Health Officials recommend returning to a stricter protocol for slowing the spread of disease (another wave of spreading)

PHASE

1

Understanding PHASE 1

PHASE	GOV. GUIDELINES	WORSHIP SERVICES	COM. GROUPS	MERCY KIDS	MERCY STUDENTS	MINISTRY EVENTS	DECISION POINT [FOR SHIFTING PHASES]
PHASE 1	Stay-at-home, >10 worship allowed outside, social distancing	Online Service Only	Online, D-Groups in-person	Online Service & Parent Resourcing	Online	Online and limited in-person	Government removes stay-at-home and allows worship gatherings inside for 10-99 people

GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

- Stay-at-home order in place. Restrictions only allow for gatherings of <10 people. Exceptions are made for outdoor worship services with social distancing (6' or more) being practiced. These outdoor services can include more than 10 people.

MERCY CHURCH GATHERINGS

- WORSHIP SERVICES:** Main service is available online starting at 10am on Sundays. Services are designed to be viewed in-home. Mercy facilities are closed.
- COMMUNITY GROUPS:** Community Groups are still meeting on regular schedule via video conferencing. D-groups have the opportunity to meet within health guidelines. The vulnerable populations are encouraged to participate virtually.

- › **MERCY KIDS & STUDENTS:** Mercy Kids service is available online starting Sundays at 9:15am. Mercy Students (6th-12th grade) are meeting online via video conferencing on Thursdays. Parents being sent resources to use in home with kids and students.
- › **MINISTRY EVENTS & SERVING OPPORTUNITIES:** All other ministry events (i.e. Equip classes, prayer meetings, etc) are being conducted primarily online and have been reduced. Some in-person gatherings may take place. Serving opportunities and community partnerships are limited and generally determined by individual partner's limitations/restrictions.

SHIFTING TO NEXT PHASE

- › When the government removes the stay-at-home order and allows inside worship gatherings for anywhere from 10 to 99 people.

PHASE

2

Understanding **PHASE 2**

PHASE	GOV. GUIDELINES	WORSHIP SERVICES	COM. GROUPS	MERCY KIDS	MERCY STUDENTS	MINISTRY EVENTS	DECISION POINT [FOR SHIFTING PHASES]
PHASE 2	Stay-at-home lifted, larger groups allowed to gather inside for worship	Online Service & Mercy Watch Parties in homes	In-person (CG is different than Watch Parties)	Online Service & Watch Party resourcing	Online	Limited (in-person & virtual)	Government allows worship gatherings inside for 100+ people and Mercy's New Facility Reopening Protocols are in place

GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

- As we enter NC's Phase 2, the stay-at-home order will be lifted and larger groups will be allowed to gather both inside and outside. Because we don't know how many people will be allowed to gather inside our facilities, we're making plans assuming that the number is between 10 and 99..

MERCY CHURCH GATHERINGS

- WORSHIP SERVICES:** Main service is available online. We will establish missionally focused Watch Parties around the city. These Watch Parties will be both for the physical gathering of our people as well as creating welcoming environments for us to engage our community and bring others to church. Vulnerable populations will be encouraged to attend worship services virtually.

- › **WATCH PARTIES:** Watch Parties take place all over our city. These groups are both missional and communal. Mercy provides training and resources to aid in hosting and leading new attenders well through the Sunday worship service. Watch Parties are encouraged to be environments where families, neighbors, and friends are welcomed into homes where people can participate in worship, the preaching of God's Word, fellowship, and the sharing of meals. Watch Party attendees are encouraged to follow recommended health guidelines. Vulnerable populations are encouraged to attend groups virtually.
- › **COMMUNITY GROUPS:** Community Groups are encouraged to resume in-person gatherings while following the recommended health guidelines. Vulnerable populations are encouraged to attend groups virtually.
- › **MERCY KIDS & STUDENTS:** Mercy Kids service is available online starting Sundays at 9:15am. Watch Parties are encouraged to create space for this kids service as well as various activities and resources provided by Mercy to aid in creating meaningful worship experiences for kids. Mercy Students (6th-12th grade) are meeting online via video conferencing on Thursdays.
- › **MINISTRY EVENTS & SERVING OPPORTUNITIES:** Most ministry events (i.e. Equip classes, prayer meetings, etc) are being conducted online and, in some cases, are in-person while following strict guidelines as recommended by Health Officials (i.e. face masks, distancing, etc). Serving opportunities and community partnerships are limited and generally determined by individual partner's limitations/restrictions.

SHIFTING TO NEXT PHASE

- › When the government allows inside worship gatherings with 100+ people.
- › Once Mercy has established and properly executed its Facility Reopening Protocols we will move to Phase 3.

*** If the government removes the restrictions for gatherings of 100+ people prior to Mercy completing its Facility Reopening Protocols, Mercy Church will remain in Phase 2 until this is completed.*

PHASE

3

Understanding PHASE 3

PHASE	GOV. GUIDELINES	WORSHIP SERVICES	COM. GROUPS	MERCY KIDS	MERCY STUDENTS	MINISTRY EVENTS	DECISION POINT [FOR SHIFTING PHASES]
PHASE 3	Decreased restrictions on vulnerable populations, increased limit on people allowed at gatherings	Online Service, Mercy Watch Parties, and limited & modified onsite worship	In-person (CG is different than Watch Parties)	Online Service, kids attend worship service/watch party & limited childcare available	Online and limited in-person (if comp activities resume with <18 yrs)	Limited (in-person)	Government removes gathering restrictions and the community resumes activities involving kids (i.e. sports, camps, schools, pools, etc)

GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

- As we enter NC's Phase 3, there will be decreased restrictions on the vulnerable populations and an increased limit on the amount of people who are allowed to gather indoors. Because we don't know how many people will be allowed to gather inside our facilities, we're making plans assuming that the number is 100+ people in this Phase.

MERCY CHURCH GATHERINGS

- WORSHIP SERVICES***: Main service is available online. We will continue to have Watch Parties in homes around our communities. Vulnerable populations will be encouraged to follow Health Officials' recommendations and potentially attend a virtual service. We may offer limited in-person worship services at Mercy Campuses. These worship services may have specific guidelines in place (i.e. face masks, distancing, handwashing, etc) and may have attendance restrictions to aid in following new procedures that will be put in place to help prevent the spreading of disease.

- › **WATCH PARTIES:** Watch Parties continue to take place all over our city. Watch Party attendees will be encouraged to follow recommended health guidelines.

- › **COMMUNITY GROUPS:** Community Groups are encouraged to continue in-person gatherings while following the recommended health guidelines. Vulnerable populations are encouraged to attend groups virtually if desired or to otherwise strictly follow all Health Officials' recommended guidelines.

- › **MERCY KIDS & STUDENTS:** Mercy Kids service is available online starting Sundays at 9:15am. Watch Parties are encouraged to create space for this kids service as well as various activities and resources provided by Mercy to aid in creating meaningful worship experiences for kids. Additionally kids are invited to attend on-campus Worship Services. Limited childcare may be provided at some on-campus services. Mercy Students (6th-12th grade) are meeting online via video conferencing on Thursdays. If community is allowing for resumption of events involving minors (i.e. sporting events, youth camps, etc) some in-person Student events resume.

- › **MINISTRY EVENTS & SERVING OPPORTUNITIES:** Most ministry events (i.e. Equip classes, prayer meetings, etc) are being conducted in-person and following guidelines as recommended by Health Officials (i.e. face masks, distancing, etc). Online accessibility to these events will be available for those who opt out of in-person gatherings/events. Serving opportunities and community partnerships are limited and generally determined by individual partner's limitations/restrictions.

*** Due to resourcing and volunteer recruitment, these in-person, on-campus Worship Services may not have in-person preaching. Additionally, other various service elements will likely be received via video.*

SHIFTING TO NEXT PHASE

- » When the government removes gathering restrictions (or at least groups of 400+ are allowed).v
- » When Charlotte and surrounding communities resume activities involving kids (i.e. sports, camps, schools, pools, etc).

PHASE

4

Understanding **PHASE 4**

PHASE	GOV. GUIDELINES	WORSHIP SERVICES	COM. GROUPS	MERCY KIDS	MERCY STUDENTS	MINISTRY EVENTS	DECISION POINT [FOR SHIFTING PHASES]
PHASE 4	NO DEFINITIVE PHASE	Online Service, resume on-campus worship (service # and times TBD)	Return to normal	Return to normal	Return to normal	Return to normal	Government and/or Health Officials recommend returning to a stricter protocol for slowing the spread of disease (another wave of spreading)

GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

- › No restrictions. Recommendations only.

MERCY CHURCH GATHERINGS

- › **WORSHIP SERVICES:** Full capacity services resumed with adjustments in order to abide by health recommendations.
- › **COMMUNITY GROUPS:** Community Groups are encouraged to continue in-person gatherings while following the recommended health guidelines.
- › **MERCY KIDS & STUDENTS:** Resume in-person gatherings on campus during services (Mercy Kids/Students environments and events resume)
- › **MINISTRY EVENTS AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES:** Various ministry events and serving opportunities resume. Ministry Teams, local service opportunities, and other events are free to gather in-person while following recommended health guidelines.

SHIFTING TO NEXT PHASE

- » Mercy will monitor closely and remain ready to pivot should another wave of disease spreading arrive.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO
GATHERING TOGETHER

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