



GOOD SAMARITAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Regathering Plan 2.0

Approved by the Bishop’s Committee on August 16, 2020

Note: This plan is subject to Good Sam’s being able to meet all requirements of Brownsburg Community School Corporation (BCSC) and [The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis](#), which include:

- The number of COVID-19 cases in Hendricks County has decreased for 14 days or has held steady with a mere handful of cases (five or fewer).
- Hendricks County retains the ability to test all who are COVID-19 symptomatic.
- The positive test rate in Hendricks County is less than 10%, preferably closer to 3% or less.

Phase 0: Before Any In-Person Gatherings

Action Item	Who will complete?	Verified complete? Date? Comments?
0.1: Purchase 1000 masks, three touchless hand sanitizing stations, and four cases of gallon-sized hand sanitizer. Make provisions in the 2021 budget for additional purchases.	Astrid	Done. June 11, 2020.
0.2: Make contact with Hendricks County Health Department to initially verify ability to meet diocesan requirements. Then maintain contact on a daily basis in 14 days prior to return, notifying the Vicar immediately if any expectations cannot be met.	Gray	Done. June 11, 2020.
0.3: Verify sanitization expectations and make a cleaning plan with BCSC to include chairs, doorknobs, tables, light switches, restrooms, and other areas that people touch when they are at Harris Academy. BCSC must also maintain sufficient amounts of tissue, soap, and disposable paper towels. (Good Sam’s will supply hand sanitizer.) 0.3.1: Develop a plan for BCSC staff to safely dispose of trash that may include biohazard masks.	Gray	Done. June 25, 2020.
0.4: Work with Good Sam’s Nursery Team to establish a protocol for eventual weekly nursery disinfection and cleaning and social distancing to the best extent possible.	Barbie	Done. Barbie has held conversations with Rachel during regular supervision.

<p>0.5: Develop a clearly articulated plan to communicate our safety standards and practices to the congregation to include advanced written communication, verbal announcements, social media posts, and in-person reminder signs for Good Samaritans and guests that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Those experiencing respiratory symptoms of any type should stay at home. ● Those who are over 65 and or those with underlying medical conditions should also stay at home. ● Those who have had in-person contact with a known COVID positive individual should stay at home. ● Masks are required of all persons over the age of 2 at all times. Persons not wearing a mask will be provided one. Those not willing to wear a mask will be asked to leave by either the Vicar, the Wardens, or a Bishop’s Committee Member. ● Social distances of 6 feet or more must be observed in seating arrangements. ● Physical contact is not permitted at the peace. ● No offering basket or plate may be passed. ● Greeters must not make physical contact at the entrance of the church by welcoming people with a handshake or a hug. ● In-person coffee hours are prohibited until further notice. ● Singing is not permitted by the Bishop in initial phases and Holy Communion will not be celebrated until advised by the Bishop. 	<p>Gray, Astrid</p>	<p>Done. Communicated in e-news and in event sign-up advisories.</p>
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Phase 1: Trial Stage (Actual date: July 15)

Requires: 14 days trend of declining cases in Hendricks County and/or positive test rate in Hendricks County is less than 10%, preferably closer to 3% or less.

- **Sunday worship** continues online for now.
- Continue to offer one online weeknight gathering/activity/small group.
- Offer **limited attendance (25 people maximum) in-person weeknight Evening Prayer** at a local park or other outdoor venue. Attendees must bring their own lawn chair, and comply with all social distancing and mask requirements. **Advanced reservations will be required, and at least two slots will be held for anticipated visitors/guests. Children must be able to understand/observe social distancing.**
- Offer **limited attendance (25 people maximum) in-person Good Sam’s Kids/Families Gathering** at a local park, residence, or other outdoor venue. Host is supplied hand sanitizer and disinfectant and masks, guests bring their own lawn chairs, drinks (no alcohol) and masks, and must comply with social distancing and mask requirements. **Advanced reservations will be required, and at least four slots will be held for anticipated visitors/guests. Children must be able to understand/observe social distancing.**

Action Item	Who will complete?	Verified complete? Date? Comments?
1.0: Maintain daily contact with Indiana State Department of Health to confirm ability to meet diocesan requirements.	Gray	Done daily via ISDH website.
1.1.: Reserve park shelter and ensure access to bathrooms for handwashing, etc.	Gray	Done. June 9, 2020.
1.2: Prepare a portable sanitation box that has extra masks, hand sanitizer, along with a first aid kit.	Astrid	Done. July 3, 2020.
1.3: Post signs in gathering space reminding guests of safety expectations.	Gray	Done.
1.4: Ask an usher to attend and serve as greeter, ensuring that expectations are met as people enter. Usher will also maintain a headcount and notify the priest if for some reason we are nearing capacity.	Gray	Done. July 14, 2020. Bob/Nanci Slagle to serve.
1.5: Keep a log of all guests who attended the in-person event.	Gray	Done.

Phase 2: Harris Academy Outdoor Trial Stage (Anticipated date: September 13, 2020)

Requires: 14 days trend of declining cases in Hendricks County and/or positive test rate in Hendricks County is less than 10%, preferably closer to 3% or less.

- **Sunday online worship** continues at 10:00-10:45 a.m.
- **Good Sam's Kids, Explorers, and Youth** meet online from 11:00-11:45 a.m.
- **Sunday in-person outdoor worship, with limited attendance (50 people maximum), is offered at Harris Academy** in the field behind Door 11 from 11:00-11:45 a.m.
 - Attendees need to bring their own lawn chair, and comply with all social distancing and mask requirements.
 - ***Children must be able to understand/observe social distancing.***
 - No in-person nursery or Good Sam's Kids/Youth activities are available during this trial stage.
 - Bathrooms are located near the Food Pantry at Door 11 and are the only indoor space used; we will coordinate with BCSC to ensure they are cleaned after worship.
 - ***Advanced reservations will be required, and at least four slots will be held for anticipated visitors/guests.***
- **Weekday events: Continue to offer limited attendance (25 people maximum) in-person outdoor gatherings/activity/small group** are permitted *at a local park, residence (back yard or driveway), or other appropriate outdoor venue.* Host is supplied hand sanitizer and disinfectant and masks, guests bring their own lawn chairs, drinks (no alcohol) and masks, and comply with all social distancing and mask requirements. ***Advanced reservations will be required, and at least two slots will be held for anticipated visitors/guests. Children must be able to understand/observe social distancing.***

Phase 3: Harris Academy Indoor Trial Stage (Anticipated date: November 1 or later?)

Requires: 14 days trend of declining cases in Hendricks County and/or positive test rate in Hendricks County is less than 10%, preferably closer to 3% or less.

- **Sunday online worship** continues at 10:00-10:45 a.m. *and is our primary service.*
- **Good Sam’s Kids, Explorers, and Youth** continue to meet online.
- **Spiritual formation and Church That Serves** continue to meet online.
- **Simple indoor Sunday worship at Harris Academy (25 person maximum)** offered from 11:15 a.m.-12:00 noon. Attendees need to comply with all social distancing and mask requirements. *Advanced reservations will be required, and at least two slots will be held for anticipated visitors/guests. Children must be able to understand/observe social distancing.* Service will be:
 - Limited setup: Only chairs, microphone & speaker, placed in a socially distant way in the gym. No soft space for Good Sam’s Littles.
 - Contactless: No coffee, greeters, nametags. Bulletins will be placed in seats prior to worship.
 - No nursery or in-person Good Sam’s Kids, Explorers, or Youth.
 - No music or celebration of Holy Communion.
- If Harris Academy or BCSC notifies us that a student or staff member at Harris has been diagnosed with a confirmed case of COVID within 48 hours of a scheduled worship service at Harris, we will cancel the worship service and consult the Diocese for further direction.
- Continue to offer, as weather/daylight permit, **one outdoor weeknight gathering/activity/small group** up to maximum of 25, as indicated in phases above.

Action Item	Who will complete?	Verified complete? Date? Comments?
3.0: Maintain daily contact with Indiana State Department of Health to confirm ability to meet diocesan requirements. Notify the Vicar immediately if any expectations cannot be met.	Astrid	
3.1.: Confirm sanitation standards can be met with BCSC. Upon arrival at Harris, verify that sanitation practices were implemented.	Gray	
3.2: Bishop’s Committee member on duty arrives early and places sanitation equipment and masks on table, sets out giving basket, and posts signs reminding guests of safety expectations.	Wardens	
3.3: Ask usher to attend and serve as greeter, ensuring that expectations are met as people enter. Usher will also maintain a headcount and notify the priest if for some reason we are nearing capacity. Bishop’s Committee member on duty assists the usher with enforcing mask requirements.	Gray, Bishop’s Committee Member on Duty	
3.4: Using Realm, keep a log of all guests who attended the in-person event.	Gray	

Phase 4: Full Return to Harris Academy Worship (Date: ??)

Note: Prior to Phase 4, a new plan will be filed for approval with the Bishop's Office.

Requires: Near complete diminishment of cases in Hendricks County.

- **Sunday online worship** moves to 9:00-9:45 a.m.
- **In-person worship at Harris offered from 10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.** Attendees need to comply with any remaining social distancing and mask requirements.. Service will follow Bishop's guidelines about singing and celebration of Holy Communion.

Questions

If you choose to return to your buildings while those over 65 and those with underlying medical conditions are being advised to stay home, how will you provide for them and for others who do not feel safe attending church? Our primary gathering will continue to be online for the foreseeable future. Moving forward, even when we return with regularity on Sundays, we will always offer an online option.

How will you respond to people in high risk categories who nonetheless want to return to in-person worship? We will highly discourage those in high risk categories to attend and redirect them to online worship. If this becomes an issue, we will ask our priest to have a private pastoral conversation with the individual.

If you return to your church, will you continue to provide an online service? Online coffee hour? Online small groups? Yes, moving forward, we now always plan to offer an online worship. This is our new "second" service. And yes, we anticipate that for the foreseeable future, all small groups will be online.

How will you limit attendance at gatherings so there is room for visitors and newcomers to take part without exceeding the guideline maximum? For the first three phases, advanced reservations will be required and we will always hold at least two empty slots for guests or unexpected visitors.

How will you coordinate logistics like reservations in order to make that happen? We will manage the event on Google Forms and/or Realm.

Everyone present in church gatherings must wear masks. How will you provide masks for people who forget? How will you attend to someone who doesn't want to wear a mask? We will provide additional masks on our welcome table for those who forget. Our Vicar, Wardens, or Bishop's Committee Members on Duty will speak with someone over the age of two not wearing a mask to notify them of our policy and to ask them to comply. If they do not comply, our Vicar, Wardens, or Bishop's Committee Members will ask them to leave.

Will you screen people who attend gatherings? How will you respond if someone appears ill? As part of the published guidelines, we will ask people to self-select and stay home if they have been ill. We will not screen people who attend our gatherings, but will keep a contact log in case there is any need for contact tracing.

What degree of exposure to someone with COVID-19 would preclude someone from gathering? (Someone in their household? In the workspace? A neighbor they pass on the street?) Those who have a known COVID case in their home or have had more than 15 minute in-person contact with a known COVID positive individual will be required to stay at home.

How will you communicate seating arrangements that ensure social distancing? For Phases 1-3, people will bring their own chairs to outdoor events and we will ask people to space themselves six feet apart. For Phase 4, we will work with BCSC to ensure that chairs are set up in the gymnasium at Harris six feet apart.

How will you ensure safe airflow? Can your HVAC system be set to increase the rate of exchange with fresh air? Does the HVAC system have highly efficient particle filters in place? The HVAC system at Harris was built in the 1970s, is completely out of our control, and is the responsibility of BCSC. We will work with them to ask for particle filters and an exchange rate, but this is one area which we cannot fully manage.