

## EFC East Valley - Reopening FAQ

- **Why are we deciding to reopen at this point in time?**
  - Why decide to take any risk and reopen at all? Two reasons:
    - Corporate Worship (Connection to God): We believe God receives more glory when people worship God at the same time and in the same place. We believe the church is called to be an assembly, which denotes a physical gathering of His people. The impact on the worshippers is also increased. This is not quantifiable, but our experience points to this conclusion: from worshipping through a pre-recorded service, to a livestream (worshipping at the same time), to the testing phase where a team of livestream leaders/operators have worshipped together (in the same place), the quality of worship has increased.
    - Fellowship (Connection to Others): We believe that in-person interactions provide a deeper connection amongst attendees. Though connecting virtually has been a means to staying connected with others during this pandemic, it ultimately cannot replace in-person fellowship. As many of our members are struggling with loneliness, depression, and isolation, we felt compelled to develop standards and procedures that allow for safe in-person interactions at our outdoor services.
  - Why reopen *at this point in time*?
    - At the 12/6 Council meeting, the church leadership discussed and approved the proof of concept and proposal for in-person service, which included in-depth health and safety procedures to reduce risk of exposure and spread of the virus.
    - This soft reopening allows us to prepare for a potential wider reopening in the future. This preparation helps us to better ensure the health and safety of anyone who steps foot on to our campus.
- **Is EFCEV abiding by the LA County Covid guidelines regarding outdoor religious services?**
  - Yes. Here are the links to two documents regarding surge rules and LA County Health Guidelines:
    - [http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/HOO\\_SaferatHome\\_SurgeResponse.pdf](http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/HOO_SaferatHome_SurgeResponse.pdf)
    - <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protocols/ReopeningPlacesofWorship.pdf>
- **How many attendees will be allowed on site?**
  - Maximum of 30 people total will be allowed on site.
- **What will happen if random guests show up?**
  - To keep our services safe, they will not be allowed to join our outdoor service. However, they will be given the option of joining the livestream service on their phones in their cars.
- **Is everyone required to wear a mask during service?**
  - Everyone is required to wear a mask the entire time on church premises. The only people allowed to remove their masks are the presider, the speaker, and the worship lead for the week—and only during the specific times they are carrying out their roles (e.g., giving announcements, delivering sermon, leading worship).

- **How are the facilities being cleaned and prepared for worship services?**
  - Guests will be asked to bring their own chairs to the outdoor service in order to eliminate the possibility of coming into contact with any physical items.
  - We also highly recommend using your own bathrooms at home to minimize the need to use the restrooms on-site. However, church bathrooms will be available to use on a “1-in, 1-out” policy. Bathrooms are sanitized on a weekly basis.
- **Will my temperature be taken as I enter the campus?**
  - Yes. Along with filling out a Covid Screening questionnaire (which will be sent via Google Forms the Saturday before the Sunday in question), everyone will have their temperatures taken upon arrival on church grounds by someone from the Health & Safety Committee.
- **What will the service be like?**
  - You are expected to arrive between 10:30-10:45am.
  - You will immediately be greeted by a Health & Safety team member who will:
    - 1) Check if you have filled out the COVID Health Screening questionnaire and are cleared to attend the service
    - 2) Take your temperature with a touchless thermometer
    - 3) remind you of our rules and procedures
  - You will be assigned a spot where you (and your household members) will set up your chairs. You can talk and fellowship with other people from your assigned area, being always mindful to keep your masks on and to stay 6-feet socially distant.
  - Service will start promptly at 11am and will include a worship set, a sermon, a second worship set, and announcements. Service will end approximately at noon.
  - You can leave once service ends, or you can fellowship with others from the area you have been assigned.
  - Fellowship time will end at 12:15pm at which time you will need to vacate the premises.
- **What safety precautions are we taking to prevent transmission/ spread at our on-site service?**
  - Everyone will be expected to following guidelines set forth by church leadership:
    - Masks covering nose & mouth to be worn at all times.
    - Maintain social distancing (6 ft) between you and others apart from your household.
    - No food or drinks shall be permitted in public areas. Please consume your food/drink in the car.
    - Complete the COVID Screening form Saturday prior to the Sunday of your attendance.
    - **Disclose to the Health & Safety Lead if you become symptomatic after having attended a Sunday in-person meeting.**
  - Each COVID Screening questionnaire submitted by a potential in-person service attendee will be individually reviewed by the Health & Safety committee (including a healthcare professional).
  - Guests will be asked to bring their own chairs to our outdoor service in order to eliminate the possibility of coming into contact with any physical items.
  - Spaces where guests will be able to sit for service will be at least 6 feet apart and clearly marked.
- **Will there be child care/children’s ministry provided?**

- No child care or children's ministry services will be provided at this time.
- **When will I be informed if I am invited/confirmed to attend an in-person Sunday Service?**
  - The timeline of communications would be as follows:
    - Thursday: Sunday Service invitations will be emailed out.
    - Saturday, 7am: You will receive the link to the COVID Screening Survey (which must be completed before 7pm).
    - Saturday, 8pm: You will receive a confirmation email to attend.
    - Sunday: See you at 10:30am!
- **Will church be serving lunch?**
  - No lunch will be served at this present time.
- **If someone reports becoming symptomatic after attending an in-person service, will you inform all those present? If so, how?**
  - Yes, an email will be sent to anyone who may be affected to ensure they can follow up to receive proper screening and monitoring.
- **What if I'm not comfortable coming to a service yet?**
  - No worries! We will continue to livestream our services so that you and your household can join our service virtually.
  - Should you decide to attend in-person services at a later time, you can simply fill out the interest form provided via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/EV-EngInPersonInterestForm>
- **Will livestream continue to be available for those of us who feel uncomfortable going?**
  - Yes, we will still continue our livestream every week. You can access the service in real-time here: [www.efcev.org/en-service](http://www.efcev.org/en-service). (If you are viewing at a later time, click "Replay of Last Week's Service.")