



Dear Clarkson Baptist Family and Friends,

There needs to be clarification to the previous statement and letter of expectations as we “Re-enter” into worshipping together on June 7th a 10:30 a.m. for worship service only. The previous letter included the following statement that referenced the CDC “High Risk Group listed”.

*We ask that if you are in the **High Risk Group listed by the CDC** to please remain at home at this time. We truly love you and do not want you to risk being infected with this virus. The High Risk group would include and not be limited to people:*

- *65 yrs and up*
- *with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma*
- *with serious heart conditions*
- *who are immunocompromised*
- *who are severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)*
- *with diabetes*
- *with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis*
- *with liver disease*

In order to be very clear. The above statement was in no way intended to be harsh and alienating towards anyone. It was intended to provide awareness during this difficult time to those who are more susceptible to CoVid19.

Everyone, I repeat, everyone is welcome to worship with us on June 7th and after, no matter where they are in the “High Risk Group” listed by the CDC. Understand, you are taking the risk for your health. The leadership and servants are striving to do all that we can to help prevent the spread of CoVid19. Yet, we cannot make a single guarantee for each and every person. All we can do is our best to look out for one another, encourage each other, by kind and patient with one another, and display Christ’s love to each other through our words and actions.

We have received 78 surveys as of May 26, 2020. Their results indicated there are significant concerns for safety and precautions to even re-enter worship together. For example,
 8% indicated “I will return the first opportunity we have.”
 41% indicated “I will return at first opportunity but with some concerns and precautions.”
 22% indicated “I will wait several additional weeks before I attend.”
 15% indicated “It may be quite a while before I return.”
 14% indicated “Not sure”

In addition, 78% of those that voted indicated they wanted “The number of coronavirus cases near me is very small.” & “Most social distancing recommendations have been lifted.” before returning to attend worship services at church. Furthermore, there was tremendous indication for the church to have certain requirements and expectations to be met to return to worship service.

In order to help follow “Healthy at Work: Guidelines for Places of Worship” to keep our members safe and ease any fears for others, we are implementing the following expectations and requirements to enter worship service:

1. Limit attendance to 120 people in our sanctuary.
2. Thoroughly clean the entire facility before and after service.
3. Require everyone to wear a mask. (You will need to bring your own mask)
4. Take the temperature of every person attending our services upon entry with a touch-less thermometer. Temperatures of 100.4 or higher will not be allowed to attend worship at this time.
5. Ask everyone, before entering the church, questions related to **COVID-19 Symptoms**. (If you have any symptoms, you will not be able to enter at this time.)
6. Have people wait in line to be seated, and then usher them to their seats. This is the only way we can maintain the strict 6ft social distancing restriction and provide the most number of people to attend the Worship Service. (You won’t be able to sit in your preferred seat.)
7. All exit doors into and out of the sanctuary will remain open at all times.
8. While the two single bathrooms will be open, we strongly encourage people to use their home restrooms before attending. The main bathrooms will be closed.
9. Since it is difficult for someone’s health to sing with a mask and such a high percentage of particles remain in the air for over thirty minutes, we will not be singing during this time. Instead, we will encourage a more of reflective style of worship through songs.
10. Will have the opportunity for tithes and offering at the end of the worship service as we are leaving near the exit of the sanctuary. Giving online will be available at anytime.
11. Since we must maintain social distancing of 6ft, we will refrain from shaking hands, hugs, and etc.
12. Hand sanitizing stations will be available in multiple locations.
13. Normal sitting and fellowship areas will be closed at this time.
14. While it will be difficult, do not congregate in the sanctuary, foyer, or car port.

Thank you for your patience and prayers as myself and the leadership of Clarkson Baptist have been prayerfully seeking practical, Godly wisdom to pursue “Re-Entry” into physically gathering together for worship and fellowship. Our deepest desire is to Love God with all that we are and Love People as His image bearers. As we are striving to accomplish these goals, we desire to keep everyone as safe as possible and to offer encouragement for those who are experiencing fear of any kind. As we move forward, we do ask for your continued patience and cooperation with the leadership and with one another.

Due to “Healthy at Work: Guidelines for Places of Worship”, your leadership has decided to only have one Worship Service at this time with no Sunday school, no Children’s Hour of Power, no nursery or child care. Due to the vast size of our church from the front door to our sanctuary, it

would be too difficult to clean the facility effectively in between multiple service times. Our target date for return to just worship service will be June 7th. Yet, we do ask for your patience as things can change quickly due to the unpredictability of this virus and daily updates from our local, state, and national officials.

Finally, we do ask for your patience as things can change quickly due to the unpredictability of this virus and daily updates from our local, state, and national officials. We thank you so much for your prayers and your patience during this difficult time. We know that other churches have “Re-entered” before us. Please know, we are making these decisions based upon credible sources and what we believe is best for everyone who will be attending.

Your Pastor and brother in Christ,

Jason McCray

Pastor of Clarkson Baptist Church