

River Oaks Baptist Church – Chinese Mission

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We realize that everyone is under stress with the state that the world is in right now concerning Coronavirus (COVID-19), and that we need to be working together to ease everyone's concerns about safety.

During the time ROBC has been closed, our Church Council has also been discussing our next steps regarding the state of the church as well. However, we have been waiting on official news from ROBC so that we could make definite plans.

Now that an official announcement of reopening ROBC has finally been made, we discussed how to best prepare for returning to our regular services while also keeping everyone's safety in mind.

At this time, we have already seen and reviewed the most recently posted ROBC Safety Guidelines and Practices on the church website (<http://www.robc.org/covid19>) and we are satisfied with the rules that have been set.

We will have our congregation abide by the guidelines set by ROBC. We have altered some of the policies to fit our specific situation since we have a different meeting place and have added a few more items specific to our congregation. We are using a different area of the church campus and have a smaller amount of people to deal with.

1. **Attendance:** Our “at risk” congregants (per the ROBC Guidelines, those who are at least 60 years old and/or have pre-existing medical conditions) will be encouraged not to attend our in-person service at the beginning. We will have our younger, less “at risk” members attend service while still having an alternative online service for those who wish to stay at home. People will wear their own masks, or we will have masks available.

2. **Location:** Since the Chapel is where we are holding service, our congregation will already be isolated from the main church and school areas, so this will minimize exposure between congregations.

3. **Entrances/Exits:** We are aware that ROBC has set specific entrances and exits for the congregation, so we will also use that practice but referring to different entrances and exits. For our case, the best entrance to use would be the entry door next to Security and the side door to the Chapel, where we will post a person to take temperatures and provide PPE (masks, hand sanitizer, etc.) as needed. After service is over, we will have everyone exit through the Chapel front doors.

4. In-Service Practices:

- As we already have a small congregation, it will be significantly easier for us to practice social distancing in the Chapel. We will still designate places where people can sit to maintain at least 6 ft. of distance between each person or household.

- We will have printed Worship Programs for everyone to use that will have relevant scripture and song lyrics included in order to avoid using the Hymnals and Bibles that we would normally provide. The programs can be taken home or disposed in the trash after the end of service. We are also working on using digital means.

- We will provide sanitizing wipes at the front podium so it can be wiped down between each person that speaks at it during service. If the piano is used for our service, it will be wiped down before and after service.

5. **Restrooms:** Along with limiting 2 at a time, we will primarily use the restrooms near the chapel.

6. **Lunch:** On a regular Sunday, we would provide lunch for everyone after service in the Fellowship Hall. Since we are trying to minimize our congregation's contact with the main church area, we will currently not be eating lunch in the church building.

We hope that these additional guidelines that we have formulated for our congregation puts everyone's minds at ease regarding safety concerns.

Please feel free to contact us regarding any further questions you have about our plans. Be assured that everyone in our congregation is just as concerned for everyone's well-being as you all are during this time.

We pray that God will give everyone strength through this difficult time, and we hope to finally see the day we are freed from the shackles that this situation has placed on us.

With God's Blessings,

River Oaks Baptist Church - Chinese Mission (ROBCCM)