

Episcopal Diocese of Nevada Reopening Requirements and Guidelines

Requirements to submit a plan for review/approval.

- A 14-day downward or perfectly flat trend in COVID-19 cases is reported in your county or town as reported by the State of Nevada in its update beginning on Tuesday morning, June 16, 2020.
- Testing is reasonably available and being practiced in the city in which the parish is located.
- The nearest major hospital or regional medical center which would treat a positive case is doing so without yet being in “crisis mode.”
- Senior Clergy can ensure that reopening is in the spiritual and physical well-being of their parishioners.

What we will be looking for in a proposed reopening plan (not all will apply to each church)

- A brief statement regarding the need to reopen by Senior Clergy or Lay Leadership.
- Plan to have an outside firm come in to do a deep cleaning of the church building/gathering spaces.
- Plan regarding regular deep cleaning.
- Plan for providing personal protective equipment (PPE) including hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, etc.
- Diagram of gathering space and plan for social distancing.
- Plan to mark off space in the building to ensure social distancing.
- Plan regarding the training of ushers to help ensure social distancing.
- Plan regarding managing the number of people who might attend each service.
 - Please address any schedule changes to accommodate more/less services.
- Plan regarding what practices will be used for offering collection, communion, baptism, and greeting to ensure physical distancing and physical safety.
 - Please address the following: Eucharist, the passing of the peace, music/singing.
- Plan for accommodating people who are unable or unwilling to attend in person at this time.
 - Please address your more elderly or medically vulnerable people.

Suggestions for re-opening

- Can you hold church outside? If so, how?
- Can you hold small group church in people's homes?
- Can you forego Eucharist and do Morning Prayer instead?
- Can you use taped music rather than live music and limit singing?

Once you have a written plan, it can be submitted to the Diocesan Office and reviewed by the President of the Standing Committee and Diocesan Chancellor who will approve it or ask for more information. All requests will be handled in a timely manner. The Communications Director will follow up with each Parish weekly to provide assistance in following each approved plan.

Any change to your approved plan will have to be submitted as an addendum and approved separately. For instance, if your original plan included Morning Prayer and you want to start doing Eucharist, an addendum would have to be submitted and approved.

Proposal Checklist

- Statement regarding the need to reopen
- Initial deep cleaning
- Regular deep cleaning
- PPE (hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, etc.)
- Diagram of gathering space
- Usher training
- Service attendance plan
 - Schedule changes
- Liturgy plan/changes
 - Eucharist
 - Passing of the Peace
 - Music/singing
 - Other
- Accommodations for people not attending
 - Elderly and medically vulnerable people