



West Virginia Baptist Convention

Updated May 7, 2020

Statistical Information of WVBC Churches Planning to Return to the Church Building

Now that Governor Justice has begun loosening the stay-at-home restrictions many of our West Virginia Baptist Church Family have started to formulate a plan for returning to worshipping and doing ministry in their church sanctuaries and facilities. We as the WV Baptist Convention staff are here to continue to serve you and provide as many helpful resources as we can to assist you and your leadership team as you make important decisions about returning to in-person worship and ministry while keeping your congregation safe.

As a tool we hope you will find helpful, we were able to quickly **survey 114 pastors/churches** regarding the plan they are considering for returning to worship and ministry within the church building. While not every question applied to every church, the percentages below represent those who answered a particular question.

What is the date you are planning to return to worship in your church building?

Percentages from those responding...

May 3-10 – 28.94 **May 17** – 10.52 **May 24-31** – 11.40 **June +** - 28.94 **TBD** – 20.17

*Most of the churches opening May 3-10 have an average attendance of 50 or less while churches with a larger attendance are trending toward returning at a later date. Large groups of people and the difficulty of effectively maintaining social distancing seems to be a consistent influence in church decisions.

Do you plan to hold Sunday School immediately when you return?

Percentages from those responding... YES – 25.97 NO – 68.84 UNDECIDED – 5.19

**Of those answering yes, most indicated this would be with proper social distancing protocols.*

Are you planning to offer Youth and Children's programming immediately when you return?

Percentages from those responding...

YES – 16.0 NO – 66.67 UNDECIDED – 12.0 Youth Only – 5.33

Are you planning to have Vacation Bible School this summer?

Percentages from those responding... YES – 24.68 NO – 50.65 UNDECIDED – 24.67

*Several responding indicated it would be a modified version

Will you return to congregational singing immediately when you return?

Percentages from those responding... YES – 80.8 NO – 13.30 UNDECIDED – 6.62

*Many indicated they would modify singing by not using hymnals or by wearing masks.

Will you have a choir immediately when you return?

Percentages from those responding... YES – 22.22 NO – 68.89 UNDECIDED – 8.89

*Many churches surveyed do not have choirs. Only those who do were used in the results.

Will you observe the Lord's Supper (Communion) immediately when you return?

Percentages from those responding... YES – 52.56 NO – 28.21 UNDECIDED – 19.23

*The majority responding yes plan to modify how they observe Communion by using prepackaged elements, requiring gloves, etc.

Do you have a plan to do extra cleaning and sanitizing when your return?

Percentages from those responding... YES – 75.32 NO – 12.99 UNDECIDED – 11.69

Do you plan to utilize PPE (masks) when you return?

Percentages from those responding... YES – 69.62 NO – 11.39 UNDECIDED – 18.99

*Of those answering yes about 60% will require and provide masks, 40% plan to encourage people to wear masks.

Again, please know that we as the staff of the West Virginia Baptist Convention are praying for you and we are available and eager to assist you!

Richest Blessings,

The WVBC Staff

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3