

Reopening Protocols for Phase 3

The state of Illinois has published a Restore Illinois plan defining 5 phases. Each phase defines the protocol for how social gatherings are legally allowed to form. Peace Lutheran Church is adopting the Restore Illinois plan to govern the church restart protocol. The Peace Lutheran Church Reopening Matrix is an adoption of the Restart Illinois plan extended to the church operations. This matrix helps define various church functions and when those functions can be resumed based on the Illinois restart phase. Please refer to the matrix as a quick reference.

This document will provide specific details pertaining to specific church operations that can resume in Phase 3.

Peace Lutheran Church Reopening Matrix							
Restore Illinois Phase			1	2	3	4	5
Guidelines as set forth by the Illinois state governor and published at: https://coronavirus.illinois.gov			Essential gatherings, such as religious services, of 10 or fewer allowed; No non-essential gatherings of any size	Essential gatherings, such as religious services, of 10 or fewer allowed; No non-essential gatherings. (Size restrictions apply)	All gatherings of 10 people or fewer are allowed with this limit subject to change based on latest data & guidance. (Size restrictions apply)	Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed with this limit subject to change based on latest data and guidance. (Size restrictions apply)	All sectors of the economy reopen with businesses, schools, and recreation resuming normal operations with new safety guidance and procedures
Building Access	anytime		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Property Access	anytime		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Office work	as needed	3	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cleaning	weekly	2	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Worship	weekly	80+	No	No	No	Yes (up to 50)	Yes
Sunday School	weekly	20	No	No	No	No	Yes
Adult Forum	weekly	20	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Women's Bible Study	weekly	10	No	No	Yes (up to 10)	Yes	Yes
Men's Bible Study	weekly	10	No	No	Yes (up to 10)	Yes	Yes
Confirmation	weekly	20	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Youth Gatherings	as needed	20	No	No	Yes (up to 10)	Yes	Yes
Choir Practice	weekly	20	No	No	Yes (up to 10)	Yes	Yes
Joyful Noise Practice	weekly	10	No	No	No	No	Yes
PPC Meeting	monthly	25	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Third Parties	as needed	10	No	No	No	No	Yes
AI-Anon	weekly	15	No	No	No	No	Yes
Voice Lessons	weekly	5	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contractors	weekly	2	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Play Ground	as needed	6	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Labyrinth	as needed	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Womens Weeders	weekly	6+	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

It is important to stress that these guidelines will protect all of us as best as possible. But the best way to avoid getting Covid-19 is to **avoid being exposed to the virus**. It is important that you help with this. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms (fever, cough, chills, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, or shortness of breath) please stay home. If you just do not feel well, please stay home. If you are in any of the high risks groups, please stay home.

Peace Lutheran Church

Office, Administrative, and Property Access

Access to the church is allowed during Phase 3. Pastor, Church Administrator and Youth Director can resume use of their offices for church related activities. Each can bring in food for their lunch if desired. Each is responsible for cleaning and wiping down all areas in their office and any other areas in the church that was used.

Each employee will be subject to a wellness check, including a non-contact temperature, if they are seeing other members in the church.

Each of these offices are smaller in nature and the user should limit the number of people to 3 at any one time in the office. Visitors to each office must wear a mask if social distancing guidelines cannot be maintained.

The Church will be cleaned on a weekly schedule by our contractors, including sanitizing restrooms and the kitchen.

Use of church property outside can also resume for maintenance, cleaning and other property activities. Social distancing is still required. Members can use the picnic table and benches by the labyrinth.

The church will provide sanitizing wipes and spray to be used by staff and small groups to clean the areas used by them.

Before each small group gathering, we would ask that the leader take a moment and do a group wellness check. The list of suggested questions is listed below. This is **not** a gatekeeper activity but a check-in to see how each other is doing. The intent is to be sure the group is aware of the symptoms of Covid-19. This would be done as a group, just making sure everyone is all right. If anyone in the group isn't feeling well or has some of the symptoms please kindly suggest they go home and contact their family doctor.

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Phase 3 -Small Groups use of Church, Fire Pit, “Wednesday Weeders”, Youth Gatherings, Etc. –“All gatherings of 10 people or fewer are allowed. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.”

Protocol

Bible Study Groups

Groups will be required to schedule the time for their meeting with the Church Administrator in advance so the gathering does not conflict with another group. Groups will be asked to use the fellowship hall for their meeting. They will need to keep the group size to 10 people or less.

Members will be required to wear a mask if social distancing rules cannot be maintained. We would ask that members do not bring food into the church. Individual drinks (i.e. coffee, bottled water, etc.) are acceptable and should be disposed of properly when bible study is completed.

Members will be required to clean up and re-sanitize after their gathering when they leave. That means the tables and chairs need to be re-sanitized when they leave. All trash is to be removed by the group and disposed of properly outside in the trash containers.

Voice Lessons

Voice lessons will be allowed to restart in Phase 3. Voice Instructor will work with the Church Administrator to schedule the lessons to not conflict with any other small group.

The Instructor will be responsible for their area in the church (usually the front corner of the sanctuary) and their students. Students should come into the building for their lesson and leave at conclusion of their lesson. Other than the restrooms, the students should not be wandering around the building or waiting in the sanctuary for their lesson to start.

At the conclusion of the lessons for the day, the instructor is responsible for cleaning or wiping down surfaces used during the lessons.

We would ask that the Instructor and students to not bring food into the church. Individual drink (i.e. coffee, bottled water, etc.) are acceptable and should be disposed of properly when voice lessons are completed.

Fire Pit

The fire pit will reopen for normal use and access when the Restore Illinois Phase is 3, 4 or 5 while adhering to governmental guidelines and restrictions. There will still be a restriction on the number of people (10 people) attending the fire pit and social distancing guidelines will apply. If social distancing cannot be maintained attendees would be required to wear masks. Restrooms would be available for use during a properly scheduled fire pit activity. All trash is to be removed by the group and disposed of properly outside in the trash containers.

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Choirs and Hand bell Groups

Adult Choir and Hand bell Groups will be required to schedule the time for their meeting with the Church Administrator in advance so the gathering does not conflict with another group.

Adult Choir will be given the latitude to determine when and how they want to regroup for practice when the Restore Illinois Phase is 3. They still must maintain the limit of 10 or fewer members, including all accompanists and director. Choir members must also wear masks if social distancing guidelines for singing are not maintained (20 feet separation).

Individual cantors may practice and perform in the sanctuary when the Restore Illinois Phase is 3, 4 or 5 at their discretion.

The Hand bell group will be given the latitude to determine when and how they want to regroup for practice when the Restore Illinois Phase is 3. They still must maintain the limit of 10 or fewer members including all accompanists and director. Hand bell group members must also wear masks if social distancing guidelines are not maintained.

Both Choirs and Hand bell Groups will be required to clean their areas of use after their practice. This includes wiping down tables and any equipment used during practice. We would ask that members do not bring food into the church. Individual drinks (i.e. coffee, bottled water, etc.) are acceptable and should be disposed of properly, when practice sessions are completed, outside in the trash containers.

Other Small Groups (i.e. Youth Gatherings, “Wednesday Weeders”, Quilting Group)

Small Groups will be required to schedule the time for their meeting with the Church Administrator in advance so the gathering does not conflict with another group. Groups will be asked to use the fellowship hall for their meeting. They will need to keep the group size to 10 people or less.

Members will be required to wear a mask if social distancing rules cannot be maintained. Members will be required to clean up and re-sanitize after their gathering when they leave. That means the tables and chairs need to be re-sanitized when they leave. All trash is to be removed by the group.

We would ask that members do not bring food into the church. Individual drinks (i.e. coffee, bottled water, etc.) are acceptable and should be disposed of properly when practice sessions are completed outside in the trash containers.

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Wellness Check Questions

Before each small group gathering, we would ask that the leader take a moment and do a group wellness check. The list of suggested questions is listed below. This is **not** a gatekeeper activity but a check-in to see how each other is doing. The intent is to be sure the group is aware of the symptoms of Covid-19. This would be done as a group, just making sure everyone is all right. If anyone in the group isn't feeling well or has some of the symptoms please kindly suggest they go home and contact their family doctor.

- Have you felt feverish?
- Do you have a cough?
- Do you have a sore throat?
- Have you been experiencing difficulty breathing or a shortness of breath?
- Do you have muscle aches?
- Have you had a new or unusual headache (e.g., not related to caffeine, diet, or hunger, not related to a history of migraines, clusters, or tension, not typical to the individual)?
- Have you noticed a new loss of taste or loss of smell?
- Have you been experiencing chills or rigors¹?
- Do you have any gastrointestinal concerns (e.g., abdominal, pain, vomiting, diarrhea)?
- Is anyone in your household displaying any symptoms?
- To the best of your knowledge, have you or anyone in your household come into close contact² with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

¹ Rigors: a sudden feeling of cold with shivering accompanied by a rise in temperature

² Close contacts include household contacts, intimate contacts, or contacts within 6-ft. for 15 minutes or longer (10 minutes or longer for ambulatory care services) unless wearing N95 mask during period of contact