

Dear Kingdom Leaders,

My colleague, Jason Loudermilk, AMS for the West Metro Baptist Association shared this with his churches and made it available for me to share with you. I hope you find this as helpful as I did!

We will be discussing subjects like these in our weekly Thursday morning Zoom Meetings at 9 am. All sessions will be recorded and distributed for those that cannot join us live at that time. This week's subject is, " provided by Larry Black, put here". Special guest are: (again provided by Larry Black)

"I've spent some time yesterday and this morning looking over the "Opening Up America Again" document from the President's Task Forces. [You can download that document here](#). The plan outlines three phases of opening up businesses and gatherings, and those phases are applied to each state separately, based upon that state meeting "gateway" criteria in decreasing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with those phases and how that will impact our churches.

The following is a timeline that I worked through this morning, based upon the following assumptions:

- **Georgia's projected peak date:** The latest projection for the peak of daily deaths in Georgia is within 2 weeks of yesterday. That means that by April 30 we are expected to have peaked in

number of daily deaths. [You can view the site I'm referencing here.](#)

- **If** we peak then and immediately begin decreasing in number of positive cases (while maintaining or increasing the number of tests given), then we will be 2 weeks away from beginning Phase 1.
- The dates here are **ONLY IF** the state of Georgia actually meets the criteria at the earliest possible date. The governor's task force will alert us to when we can actually begin each phase. I'm merely including dates so that you get a sense of how this will look moving forward and begin to make plans accordingly. In actuality there may be more weeks that occur between phases.
- That we have no rebound in cases. If that happens, then the governor's office will determine which protocols need to be enacted to mitigate further spread of the virus.

Timeline:

Phase One (Gateway protocols are met for at least 14 days)

- Earliest Possible Sunday to begin Phase 1 Protocols: May 17
- Individuals are told to avoid gatherings of over 10, so this alone would mean that we probably continue with online gatherings throughout Phase 1

- Houses of worship, if gathered, must maintain strict social distancing, which means that there must be a minimum of 6 feet on all sides of every person at all times.

Phase Two: (Gateway protocols are met for another 14 days AND no rebound in COVID-19 cases)

- Earliest Possible Sunday to begin Phase 2 Protocols: May 31
- Individuals are told to avoid gatherings over 50. This means that we can begin having very limited gatherings. We probably need to look at a hybrid model, where some small groups can attend a service but most people remain watching the livestream online.
- Houses of worship, if gathered, must maintain moderate physical distancing. This term has not yet been clearly defined.

Phase Three: (Gateway protocols are met for an additional 14 days AND no rebound)

- Earliest Possible Sunday to begin Phase 3 Protocols: June 14
- Houses of worship must maintain limited physical distancing (not yet clearly defined).
- All locations must include **new protocols**, which include:
 - temperature checks for people entering the building
 - providing hand sanitizing stations throughout the building
 - cleaning and disinfecting public areas regularly
- This will be our new normal until the vaccine is able to be administered.

To be clear, the above mentioned dates are not definite, but they are just a proximity of the earliest possible dates based upon the criteria that we have right now. Each phase will not be determined by the calendar, but by meeting the gateway criteria.

In addition to the above information, you can also [download a document from the Florida Baptist Convention](#) that will help guide your church through the decisions that need to be made as you plan to reopen your physical campus.

I know that this is a lot of information to process, but I wanted to make sure you had seen this information and were beginning to make plans accordingly. I am so thankful for each of you and all that you are doing to serve our churches and minister to God's people from at least six feet away. I'm praying for you and our churches!

In Christ,
Jason Loudermilk