

Newton Presbytery Requirements for Reentry Plan revised 9 June 2020

In order to be prepared for the different stages for reentry into our buildings the Presbytery of Newton Trustees , Committee on Ministry and the Presbytery Coordinating Team are requiring that each session develop a plan for reentry in order to assure safety of members, participates, clients, children, users of the building, staff and many others.

Because of the ever-changing understanding of COVID 19 we recognize that no plan will be perfect and will need to be adapted, revised and changed with each stage of reentry.

As the session completes each stage of their plan for reentry please submit the document to the Presbytery office (office@newtonpresbytery.org) for review by the Trustees and for your file. The Trustees will review to see that you have covered the minimum requirements for reentry and will contact you if something is missing.

More is better in this case. We have included a checklist as a guide and questions to consider at each stage.

Please note that all plans must adhere to the State of New Jersey's requirements and regulations for each stage of the New Jersey Road Back plan. The session needs to have a unanimous consent, including the pastor/moderator of the plan before submitting to the trustees.

Minimum Plan Requirements

Stage 1

New Jersey Stage 1 may include some use of the building by staff, small groups of 10 or less for recording worship services or other necessary gatherings, outside events of 25 or less, mission programs (i.e. food distributions) , "drive in" events.

Congregational Stage 1 Plan/protocols shall include:

- How to enter the building from parking lot/street and out from the building to the parking lot/street
- Social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer, hand washing, restrooms, and cleaning for all stages
- Continuing online presence and pastoral care
- Plans for any outside worship or drive in services or events that follow NJ regulations.
- Plans for Weddings and Funerals on church property that follow NJ regulations for small groups.

- How this information will be communicated to the congregation and those who use the building.
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Stage 2

New Jersey Stage 2 includes larger outside worship/events, mission programs, building users/renters limited use of space, continuing online presence. All Plans/protocols should include continuing plans developed for Stage 1

Congregational Stage 2 Plans/Protocols shall include

- Procedures on how to do worship outside and/or small group worship inside the building.
 - Continue worship online for those who cannot attend for reasons of health, not enough space (outside or inside), or are homebound or at a distance.
 - Plans and/or policy for protection of staff from infection or if staff have underlying health concerns and needs to stay at home.
 - Procedures and people identified for keeping track of who has been part of church events/gatherings on church property in case of the need to contact tracking.
 - Plans/procedures for weddings and funerals onsite.
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Stage 3

New Jersey Stage 3 includes larger group gatherings, additional use of the building, staff continue to work from home if possible.

Congregational Stage 3 plans. We do not have clarity or guidance at this time from the state for reentry at this time. We will publish requirements as soon as we have more information.

Examples of Possible Report formats will be posted on the Presbytery Website.