

## Reopening Guide for Attendees to SCBC Building (2020.7.1)

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR - SCBC REOPENING

In the contemporary history of the Church, it is unprecedented for her to be locked down for public health reasons. Indeed we all feel clamped down during the outbreak. From many years of a mode of faith life that has been so used to, we have to transform into a different mode sustained by science and technology. We cannot meet with each other face-to-face, cannot experience our own real circumstances, cannot pat someone on the back to cheer up each other, cannot be in the same space to express ourselves in body language, tone, or a heart-to-heart talk. **Now to return to normal, but to a new normal, what can be done?**

**God's creation of man is very special.** "Love" and "relationship" are built up through being close to and care for one another. For this reason, God created man in His own image and communicated with man in the Garden of Eden; in the same way Jesus Christ became flesh the incarnate, has been tempted in every way, and is able to empathize with our weaknesses. That is why the Book of James says, "Faith if not accompanied by action is dead.." (James 2:17). More so, the Book of Hebrews says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Now SCBC is reopening gradually and cautiously at an appropriate pace, and in full compliance with public health directives. **But reopening of the church has a deeper meaning for us Christians** - that is the "visible" church, not the "virtual" church. Why has the "visible" church existed for more than two thousand years? What is the purpose and value of her existence? We can think of the seven metaphors from the Bible about the Church ... (1) The body of Christ; (2) the family of God; (3) the kingdom of the saints; (4) the temple of the Holy Spirit; (5) the sheep ring; (6) the bride of Jesus Christ; and (7) the golden lampstand.

During these pandemic times, these seven metaphors bear witness to reality of the "visible" church. We hope that brothers and sisters gradually return to in-person worship and ministry programs with a united heart and thanksgiving.

Rev. Derek Li  
Senior Pastor, Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church

## **REOPENING GUIDE**

As the Provincial Government eases the emergency order's restriction and allows reopening of the church, we, the SCBC family are delighted and much looking forward to the opportunity to worship in-person again. The COVID -19 pandemic is far from over and the risk of infection without proper protection is still there. Although no full guarantee of safety can be provided by the church, safety precautions and hygiene protocol must be put in place and observed to protect the well-being of all attendees. We pray for and trust entirely in God's protection.

These precautionary measures are taken to comply with Ontario's and City of Toronto's directives and advice pertaining to COVID-19 prevention. Other than what the church has done vigilantly, we are asking for your full cooperation to observe the following when coming back to the church:

### **Before you decide to return:**

- Taking into account the guidelines and advice of Toronto Public Health, we encourage those who are over 70 years old, children under 6, and members with chronic medical conditions to stay home and worship and fellowship with us online during this stage of partial reopening
- Whether you have a fever or not, if you are currently not feeling well, we kindly request that you also remain home and invite you to participate with our worship services and ministries online
  - You have to complete and return a "Health self-assessment" questionnaire at the reception, you can print out the form at :
  - <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/95f0-Survey-Screening-poster-TPH.pdf>
  - complete the form and return to the Reception Safety team at the entrance on the date you plan to attend the worship service . Printed copy is also available on site for on-the-spot completion.
- When you decide you are fit to return, you have to pre-register or RSVP your intention to attend the Sunday worship service or other specific events.
- (please see church's announcement on detailed instructions in e-bulletin or website)
- Please bring your own Bible, note book, pen and a non-medical or surgical mask or face covering
- As advised by Toronto Public Health, there will be no nursery and children programs during the initial reopening.

**When you arrive at parking lot:**

- Park on the west or east side parking lot
- Do not park on the Commercial Plaza or loading bays behind the plaza as we have temporarily suspended the rental of these parking spaces
- Use the East entrance only as you come into the building
- Both the West and North entrances are now temporarily closed for entry and only one is used for exit for the initial phase of reopening.
- Ensure that you have face mask on when you walk into the building.

**When you enter the building:**

- At the front entrance, the Reception Safety team will be responsible for the following safety precautions checks:
  1. Check body temperature with an infrared thermometer
  2. Confirm each attendee is wearing a face mask or covering appropriately
  3. Completion of the Health self-assessment questionnaire with your name, contact information and date filled
  4. Hand sanitizing before entering in main building
  5. Keep social distancing of 2 metres/6 feet between all people except members of the same family/household
  6. Follow floor/wall directional signs to enter worship space (Sanctuary or Gym)
  7. Children will accompany parents and sit together in the worship space as one family
  8. Worship space's seating will be marked off a two metres/six feet distance between members
  9. Avoid any physical contact with others from different households, you can greet each other with a simile, bow or wave.

**When you finish the worship service/program:**

- Please follow ushers'/ greeters' guide to leave the building with the help of traffic directional signs on the wall or floor
- Fellowship is encouraged to take place outside the church building observing the 10-people limit and 2 metres social distancing.

### **Washroom:**

- Washrooms are available on 1<sup>st</sup> floor and basement level
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection will be done regularly, particularly throughout the Sunday worship period
- Limited capacity in the washroom to keep social distancing, please be patient and cooperate with the cleaner and other users
- Please keep the washrooms and all common areas clean after use.

### **Common areas:**

- Library will be temporarily closed
- Certain areas and classrooms will be closed
- Some common areas maybe closed off to ensure safety and cleaning needs
- No use of water fountains
- Don't use the kitchen, pantry and all food services at this time.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- 1. After the church reopens, how long will the church operate parallel mode of operating worship and ministry programs, i.e. both in-person/onsite and online?**

The parallel mode of operation is considered the “**New Normal**”. The church will run parallel mode of worship services and some ministry programs for some time. We pray that we can reach out to those brothers/sisters who are not able to physically come to the church, and also to those beyond the SCBC family.

- 2. Are you sure I'll be safe in coming onsite?**

We can't guarantee that you'll be entirely safe in church. But we can guarantee that we have complied with all government requirements in order to keep you safe. While praying for God's protection, we are asking you to play your part in adhering to the measures stated in the Guide to Reopening, to keep yourself and others safe.

- 3. When will the Children Worship and Children Ministry programs be reopened? What about the Youth programs?**

We don't have a definite timeline at this point. We will be closely monitoring the government recommendations and will reopen the children worship and children programs when it is safe to do so. The initial reopening will be operated as family worship where parents and their children attend together. Similarly, youth programs will not reopen until the government relaxes significantly the social gathering restrictions and distancing.

**4. When will fellowships, small groups and prayer meetings be reopened onsite?**

Timeline is still yet to be determined. We would like to proceed cautiously during the initial opening and learn from the implementation experience. Hence we start with worship services first onsite, followed by other ministry programs later.

**5. What if someone who has attended a worship service is confirmed to have contracted COVID-19?**

We will be transparent about any such incident. However, we would not disclose identity of the infected individual(s) for privacy reasons. Our service registration process will allow us to directly contact every person that attended a service where the infected individual(s) attended. And we will work closely with the public health agencies in these circumstances.