

First Evangelical Church of San Gabriel Valley

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A Letter from Pastor Joshua to Our Church Family

We Will Reopen Our In-Person Sunday Services Effective August 1, 2021

July 1, 2021

Dear FECSGV and HOA Family,

On Tuesday, June 15, 2021, the County of Los Angeles Health Officer issued a Revised Order entitled "SAFER RETURN TOGETHER AT WORK AND IN THE COMMUNITY: BEYOND THE BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER ECONOMY — ENCOURAGING COVID-19 VACCINATION COVERAGE WITH LIMITED RISK REDUCTION MEASURES" ("publichealth.lacounty.gov"). Based on increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage and the success of LA County and the State in lowering transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, this Order removes the local capacity limits on business and other sectors, local physical distancing requirements, and many other previously required safety modifications. This Order, however, continues to place certain safety requirements on individuals, including masking requirements in some settings, and it places a general requirement to report positive cases. Also, this Order includes best practice recommendations to reduce COVID-19 risk, but not requirements, for individual, businesses, and government entities. Under the Revised Order, attending in-person faith-based services is now permitted.

At FECSGV, the Elder Board, after consultation with a **Special Team** consisting of professionals, Joint Board and congregational representatives, and our **Pastoral Team**, has decided to reopen our church campus for **IN-PERSON SUNDAY SERVICES** effective **Sunday August 1**, **2021**. In Phase one, the following arrangements will be implemented for two months until the end of September:

- 1. HYBRID SERVICES: In view that not all congregants may be able to attend in-person Sunday services at this stage, all our in-person Sunday Services will be live streamed.
- 2. STAGGERING SERVICES: To direct the flow of the crowd, we will have staggering services.
 - 9:30am-10:30am (1 Hour): Connections/Cantonese Congregation/Youth Sunday Service for youths from Connections, Cantonese Congregation and Mandarin Congregation/Children Program for children from Connections and Cantonese Congregation (attendees may stay in the church campus from 9:00am to 11:00am)
 - 11:30am-12:30pm (1 Hour): Mandarin Congregation/Youth Joint Sunday School through Zoom by Pastor Ben in Youth Center, youths from Mandarin Congregation can join him if they stay at church after Youth Sunday Service/Children Program for children from Mandarin Congregation (attendees may stay in the church campus from 11:00am to 1:00pm).

- HOA Campus: Adult and Youth Sunday Services/Children Program to be arranged by the HOA Team based on VCC's requirement.
- 3. RISK REDUCTION MEASURES: Temperature checks and verbal screening questionnaires are required at the campus entrance. Face masks are required inside the church campus, indoors or outdoors. Appropriate physical distancing will be enforced. Lunch/Dinner will not be provided at FECSGV campus and HOA campus respectively.

In Phase one (August to September), in view once more that not all brothers and sisters can attend in-person gatherings at church, the church will continue to implement the following measures: (1) Sunday School and Equipping Classes: Online; (2) Small Group/Fellowship: Online; (3) Prayer Meetings: Online, (4) Church Staff: staff will work out office hours and working on site with Senior Pastor, (5) Online giving/Giving through mail/Put the offering in the offering box: please follow instructions on the church's website or during in-person services, (6) Special Events in Church campus: to be approved by Senior Pastor on a case by case basis.

At the end of September 2021, we will make another evaluation to determine the next move.

The vision of our church is to obey Jesus Christ's Great Commission (make disciples of all nations, Matthew 28:18-20) and Greatest Commandment (love God and love people, Matthew 22:37-40). Our motivation for every decision is always LOVE and FAITH, not fear. So be patient! And keep focused on God's purposes in our life!

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline." ~2 Timothy 1:7~

Love in Christ,

Joshua Cheng

Joshua Cheng Senior Pastor Chairperson of the Board of Elders