

CCCC Small Groups Update

On Monday May 18th, 2020 Governor Abbott released Phase 2 of his plan to reopen the state of Texas and in that he listed [health protocols for individuals](#). We feel that the spirit of what is being said is perhaps best in line with gatherings similar to that of small groups. While the document specifically limits gatherings of individuals to **no more than ten** there are many other things to consider for any navigator should they consider meeting in-person again.

Let me be clear, this document is in no way a mandate to start meeting again. It is my hope that it would provide clarity on how we think this should or could happen **IF** you choose to begin meeting again.

Phase Two: Small Groups

- Effective May 20, 2020
- All aspects of Phase One remain in place.
- To clarify, this is NOT a mandate to start meeting in-person at this time. It is our hope that this provides clarity on how we think this should or could happen **IF** you choose to begin meeting in-person soon.
- If small groups decide to meet in person, we expect them to use all recommended guidelines given by officials, including, but not limited to, social distancing, masks, group size, cleaning, etc. The CDC and the State of Texas have provided information about social distancing, and tips for protecting oneself while out in public.
<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/docs/opentx/Individuals.pdf>
 - Cast vision: Talk to your group about coming together again. This needs to include making it clear that everyone is not expected to be ready to meet in person and that everyone is loved regardless of their decision to meet in person or virtually.
 - Preparing for Group: Where will you meet? Is your group bigger than the recommended gathering size? (As of May 18, 2020 health protocols advise avoiding being in a group larger than 10 individuals). Who can meet in person? Who needs to be included virtually? How will you include them virtually? Does the host have [CDC recommended disinfectant](#)? Does the meeting location allow for proper social distancing?
 - Childcare: Do group members need childcare to be able to attend? If your group provides childcare for multiple families, does the existing setup follow [CDC social distancing guidelines](#)? Will your group members be able to find babysitters? If so, what is their comfort level with a sitter in their home? (Reminder: Children don't "get" social distancing.)
 - Navigators and host locations should work to provide a safe, clean environment. For tips and guidelines, refer to the [CDC website](#).
 - In-Person Group Meeting: Cleaning ([see CDC recommendations for cleaning surfaces](#)), seating guidelines

- Home: Will you be inside or outside? Will you require masks? Will you ask group members to take their temperature before they arrive? What areas of the home will group members be permitted to enter? How will you handle the bathrooms?
- As people leave, how will you remain 6 feet apart? You won't be able to hug/touch.
- After people leave, you'll need to disinfect surfaces that were used/touched per [CDC guidelines](#).
- If your group meets somewhere other than a home, consider how that will look. You'll need to understand the rules of the location AND decide if you want to add any additional parameters. How many can be at one table at the restaurant? What will you do about those who can only meet virtually?
- Navigators should plan to include group members who are not ready to meet in person by continuing to utilize virtual meeting tools.
- Making arrangements to intentionally include those who are not yet comfortable meeting in person is an important part of modeling how to love your neighbor in Phase 2.
- Meeting partially in person with others connected virtually can be awkward and alienating. Go out of your way to accommodate and include everyone during this season.
- Again, this is NOT a mandate to start meeting in-person at this time. It is our hope that this provides clarity on how we think this should or could happen **IF** you choose to begin meeting in-person soon. So, let's love our neighbor and respect governing authorities as together we stay committed to and relentlessly focused on leading unchurched people to become fully devoted followers of Christ.