

## Covid-19 and the Reopening of Trace Church

as of May 18, 2020

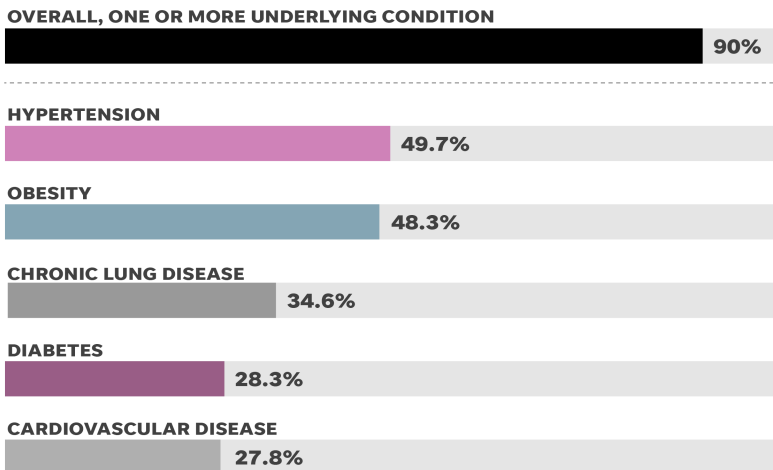
To the Members of Trace Church,

It is our greatest desire to provide a safe and meaningful experience whenever you worship at Trace. The latest reports on Covid-19 from the CDC and other sources are providing us with a growing understanding of this virus. We have attempted in this document to present the latest information available and why we believe we are ready for the reopening of Trace Church.

In the early weeks of the pandemic, tests were reserved for “high-risk” patients. Thus, a significant amount of people with mild or no symptoms could not receive or did not ask for a test. Research in numerous locations is finding that a significant amount of people have been infected with the disease yet displayed little to no symptoms. This has shifted the suspected mortality rate significantly in numerous areas.

- Germany- In Gangelt, the epicenter of the virus, they found 14% infected with a mortality rate of .36% [click here for the article](#)
- Stanford - Santa Clara County showed between 2.5% and 4.2% infected showing a mortality between .04% and .14% [click here for the article](#)

The following information provides us with excellent data on who actually gets sick and dies from Covid-19. According to a CDC report (reported in USA Today) over 90% hospitalized (the latest percentage as of this writing is 94%) with Covid-19 had one or more other health conditions:



[click here for more details](#)

The evidence is pouring in that rarely do people under 65 years of age have serious symptoms from Covid-19. The CDC reports: “8 out of 10 deaths reported in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years old and older.” [click here for the article](#)

### El Paso County

Since the beginning of this pandemic, there have been two key issues involved in opening up the economy. From the federal government to our local government, two issues most mentioned as indicators that the economy is ready to be opened up have been: 1) the flattening of the curve in cases of the virus, and 2) space in our hospitals so as not to be overwhelmed with Covid-19 patients. In our state and in our county, both have been achieved.

On April 21, Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers reported to KKTV 11 News that “we only have 35 COVID patients in Colorado Springs hospitals.” [click here for the article](#)

Of a population of over 720,000 people in our county, there have been 81 deaths from Covid-19, and a downward spiral since April 24<sup>th</sup>. This would mean we have approximately 11 deaths per 100,000. [click here for the article](#)

Colorado Springs Mayor Suthers said, “Among the major metropolitan areas [in Colorado], we are less restrictive.” Suthers said data from the health department “should support our reasoning.” The health department has increased local testing efforts and Dr. Robin Johnson along with the El Paso County Public Health Department said, “all the signs are encouraging.”

Dr. Leon Kelly, deputy medical director of El Paso County Public Health, during a Board of County Commissioners meeting on April 30 said, “We could open businesses tomorrow — open them all — it does not matter if people are too scared to go to those restaurants, too afraid to go to those shops. Our job is to prove that we are ready. El Paso is ready to go.” In his remarks, Leon also emphasized that the county will continue to work and still is working to protect those most vulnerable. Leon continued, “At some point we have to let this virus travel through the community so that we get enough healthy, young people with it, so we can build up that immunity. We cannot huddle in our shelters for the next year and half until that vaccine comes. That is not acceptable.”

[click here for the article](#)

### **Trace Church is Deemed Essential**

Trace Church is essential to our members, our city, and those who are seeking to know Jesus. All local churches are essential. Gathering together to worship each week is a key purpose of the church and is essential to the spiritual life of each individual. Trace believes worship services can be held just as safely as any of the stores which are currently open.

As we see on the news of the rising number of domestic abuse cases, depression, anxiety over lack of work, and confusion concerning the future, we believe the most essential service needed in our community is spiritual guidance. We provide counseling, training, food, prayer, worship, and teaching to those in need.

### **Our Convictions**

- We believe as the ecclesia of Jesus we are called to gather together, to grow together, and to give where there is need. Acts 2:42-47
- We believe eternity is at stake. Since we have stopped gathering together we haven't seen anyone come to faith in Christ through Trace. Not being able to gather has limited our ability to talk with people in person about surrendering their life to Jesus.
- We believe that it is essential to Christian growth that we worship together through song, the teaching of God's Word, and communion (Book of Acts and all the Epistles).

Based on the data of who gets sick, the flattening of the curve of Covid-19 patients, hospitals that are not being overwhelmed, services considered essential that involve interaction with other people, and our biblical convictions, with much prayer and seeking wise counsel, we believe God is leading us to start having Sunday services again.

Therefore, we will reopen on June 7<sup>th</sup> with services at 9 & 11am.

**What to Expect:**

- Trace Church will have every surface disinfected and wiped clean before, in between & after all worship gatherings.
- Hand sanitizer pumps will be located throughout the ministry facility.
- We encourage everyone to practice social distancing with seats between families.
- We will have a family service. No children's programming will take place.
- If the sanctuary is deemed full (with social distancing), we will seat people in The Docks and The Lodge with livestream.

**Trace Church highly recommends to everyone:**

- Stay home and watch the live stream if:
  - you are 65 years or older
  - you are sick or immune compromised
  - you are uncomfortable with our guidelines
  - you are not comfortable getting out yet
- Wear a mask, if you desire
- Keep social distancing of 6 feet
- Wash hands if you use the restroom
- Please follow all instructions given by our Greeters, Response Team and Ushers who will be monitoring traffic flow

It won't be ideal, but let's do the best with what we have. There is an opportunity here for God to teach us something new, to make us stronger, and strengthen our resolve as Christ Followers.

*Trace Church Staff, Management Team & Lead Team*