



# RE-ENTERING OUR BUILDINGS

The global pandemic has taken loved ones and for now stopped our ability to gather. A time of change and a time of many emotions:

- Anxiety
- Disappointment
- Frustration
- Grief
- Loneliness
- Stress

**A time of opportunity to worship and reach out in new ways.**

**The path  
toward  
re-entering  
our buildings**

# Re-entering as church, **TOGETHER!**

- Our **buildings** have been closed
- Our churches **HAVE NOT** been closed
- *“We have been praying, worshipping, singing and sharing the Word, **TOGETHER**”\**
- How do we reflect God’s **loving presence** together as we re-enter our buildings?

*\*Jim Winkler – President National Council of Churches 6/2/2020 Webinar  
NYSCOC*

# Discernment


- What have we learned during this time?
- What will need to be different?
- What can stay the same?
- What is our local context?
- What are the requirements we need to follow?
- How can we create a safe place for everyone to re-enter? For our most vulnerable?
- How can we reimagine what it means to be church **TOGETHER?**



# **ACTS: 2:1**

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**When the day of Pentecost  
came, they were all  
together in one place.**

The background features a vibrant, abstract flame-like pattern in shades of orange, red, and yellow. A large, stylized speech bubble shape is overlaid on the right side, containing a small black dot at its base. The overall aesthetic is dynamic and spiritual.

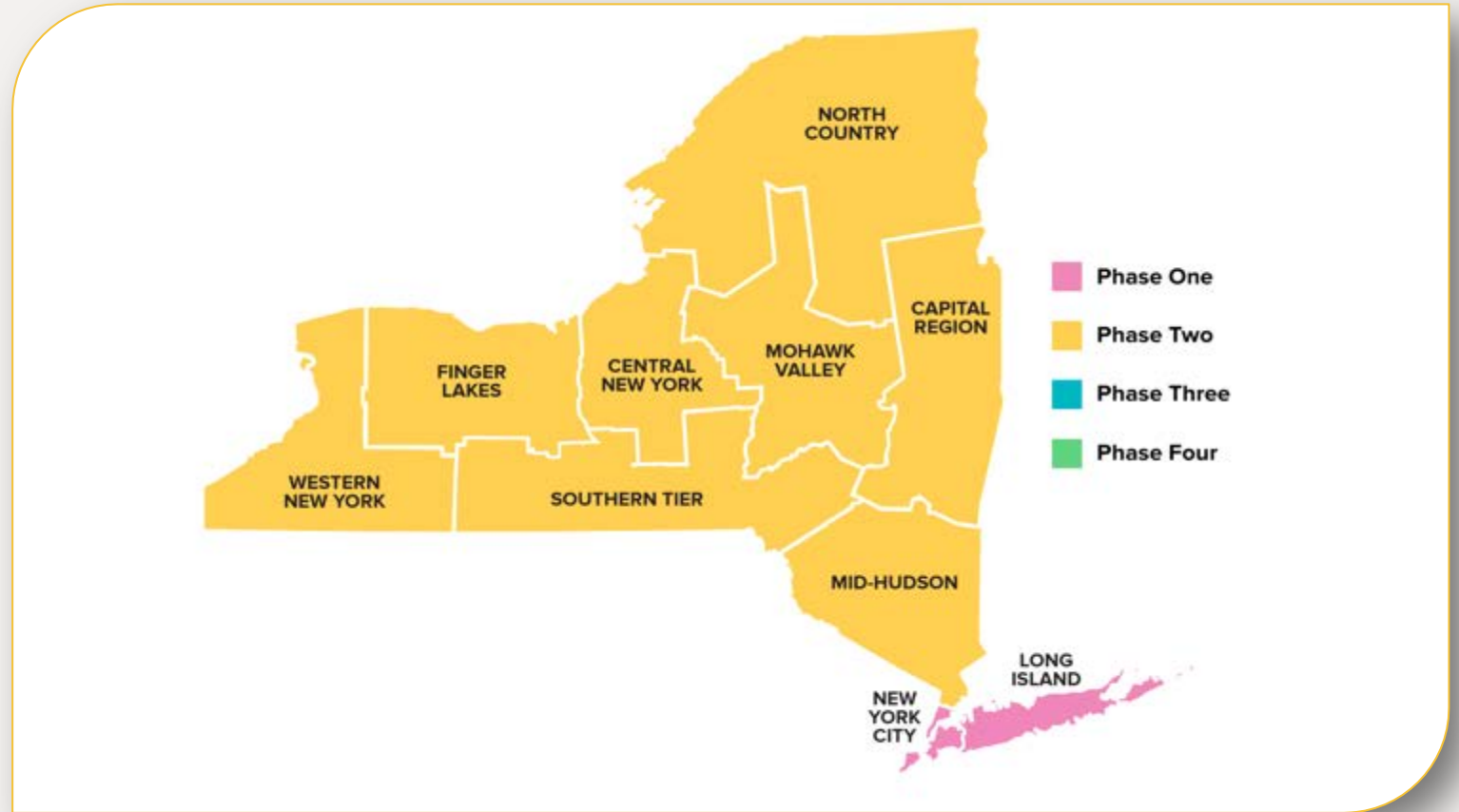
# Guidance

- Review all state laws, regulations and guidance
- Review all local laws, regulations and guidance
- Review all local health department official guidance
- Follow CDC recommendations
- Consider recommendations from ELCA and MNYS
- Explore resources from the NYS Council of Churches
- Consider legal counsel
- Review your insurance policy (contact your company or agent)

# NYS Guidance



# NYS Regions & Phases



**Long Island Phase 2 today | NYC remains in Phase 1**



# NY State

- “Make decisions based on facts and data;” “Be smart;” “What happens is a function of what we do;” “We all have a role to play”.\*
- As of June 6, places of worship will be permitted to reopen with 25% occupancy with all social distancing protocols in place during **Phase 2** of reopening. **This is ahead of schedule!**
- PPE works!
- Click [HERE](#) for daily updates provided by “What You Need to Know”.

*\*From Governor Cuomo, May 7, 2020*

# NYS Business Reopening Tool

Visit this page,  
[HERE](#).

- Enter County
- Business Category
  - 813110 Religious Organization
- Restrictions & guidelines are provided

The screenshot shows the top of the NYS website with a yellow header. On the left, it says "June 9, 2020 | 3:13 pm" and "Information on Novel Coronavirus". On the right, it says "Coronavirus is still spreading in New York. New Yorkers are required to wear a mask and maintain 6 feet distance in public." and "GET THE FACTS >". Below the header is a navigation bar with "NEW YORK STATE" logo, "Services", "News", "Government", "Local", and "Translate". A dark blue banner below the navigation bar says "New York Forward Business Reopening Lookup Tool". The main content area has the title "New York Forward Business Reopening Lookup Tool" and the following text: "Businesses in each region will be able to re-open in phases. Re-opening refers to non-essential businesses and business activities. Essential businesses and business activities that are open, will be able to remain open." "The guidelines accessible via this tool apply to both non-essential businesses in regions that are permitted to re-open, and essential businesses throughout the state that were previously permitted to remain open." "Eligibility for reopening will be determined by [health metrics](#) for each region." "This tool will help you determine whether or not your business is eligible to reopen, and the public health and safety standards with which your business must comply." "To access it, please click on the 'Get Started' button below:" Below this text is a dark blue button with the text "Get Started".

# NYS Guidance... continued

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## People. Places. Processes

- Physical Distancing: at least six feet
- Face Covering
- Singing: at least 12 feet of distance, and subject to additional protective measures
- Elevators: 1 person at a time, no more than 50% capacity
- Reduce bi-directional foot traffic
- Post signs
- Provide protective equipment
- Adhere to hygiene, cleaning and disinfection requirements advised by CDC and DOH
- Communicate plan
- Post Safety plan on site
- Screening and testing: employees, faith leaders and volunteers
- Tracing and tracking

**NOTE: With re-opening, NYS expects to see an increase in cases in the Fall. States around the country are reporting increases following Memorial Day weekend.**

# Schools, Child Care Services, Camps

Follow State and Local Government guidelines

- For NYS Considerations for Schools, click [HERE](#)
- For CDC Considerations for Childcare, Schools, and Youth Programs, click [HERE](#)
- For NYS Child Care and Day Camp Programs Guidelines, click [HERE](#)
- For CDC Considerations for Schools, click [HERE](#)
- For CDC Considerations for Childcare, Schools, and Youth Programs, click [HERE](#)



# LOCAL Government Including NYC

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- For the NYC COVID-19 Information Portal, click [HERE](#)
- Check County and City/Town/Municipality websites for local guidelines
- Check County/City/Local Health department websites



# CDC and DOH Safety & Cleaning

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***“...as Americans are now aware, gatherings present a risk for increasing the spread of COVID-19...”***—CDC  
**Guidance for Faith Communities**

## Resources

- Click, [HERE](#), for CDC Resources for Community and Faith-Based Organizations deciding to reopen
- Click, [HERE](#), for DOH Guidance for COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfection for Houses of Worship



**From Our  
Siblings in  
Faith**

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*“Safety first before  
reopening”–UCC*

# NYS Council of Churches

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NYS Council of Churches Provided a Webinar on June 2, 2020 which is available online, [HERE](#)

## Highlights

- Return when safe to do so
- Concern for the safety of our people
- Many in our churches are vulnerable
- Some don't expect to gather until August



*“Re-Opening Houses of Worship and Economic and Racial Justice During the Pandemic”*





Considerations for  
Returning to In-person  
Worship and How to  
Continue Being  
Church **TOGETHER**  
During the COVID-19  
Pandemic

Click [HERE](#)

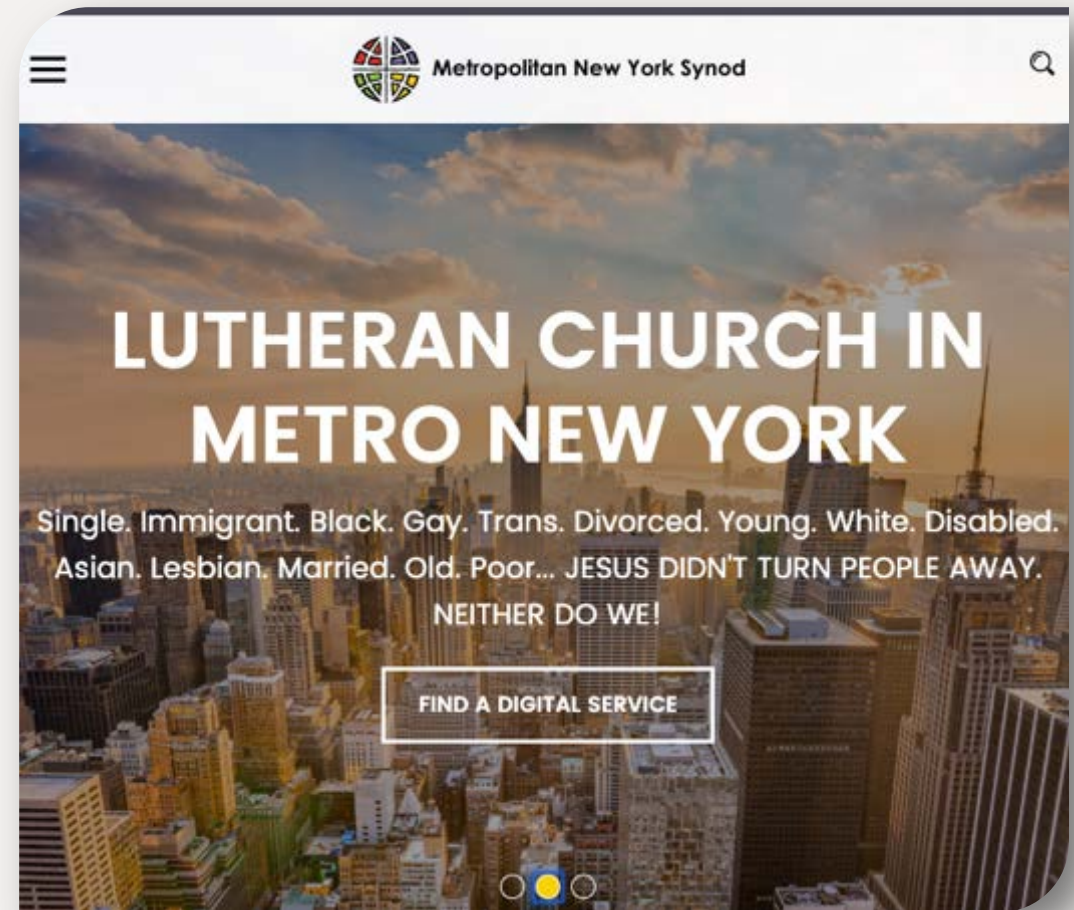


# MNYS – Who Are We?

**17 Conferences**

**180 Churches**

- Bronx
- Brooklyn
- Nassau
- New York City
- Queens
- Staten Island
- Suffolk
- Dutchess
- Orange
- Putnam
- Rockland
- Sullivan
- Ulster
- Westchester



# Recommendations

- State and local laws, regulations, and policies must be followed
- Consider the instructions our Bishop provided for communion
- Think through the plan and consider the message being sent to your congregation. How will members feel?
- Make responsible decisions
- Resume in-person worship when it is safe for all
- Consider those who are vulnerable in the congregation, including the Pastor
- Expect a possible second wave of the virus, in the Fall

***“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place”.***



A hand holding a spray bottle and cleaning a surface with a blue cloth. The background is dark and blurred, focusing on the cleaning action.

# Links, References & Resources

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# NYS RESOURCES

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- [NY Forward](#)
- [NY Phase Two Industries](#)
- [Religious & Funeral Services Summary Guidance](#)
- [Religious & Funeral Services Master Guidance](#)



# MNYS COVID-19 Resources

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

By implementing safe practices and looking out for one another, WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER!



[From Our Bishop & Leaders](#)



[MNYS Digital Services of the Word](#)



[Digital Worship & Communications Resources](#)



[Resources for Our Children](#)



[Reopening of Children's Buildings](#)



[MNYS Congregations' Digital Service of the Word](#)



[Wellness Resources](#)



[Recursos en Español](#)

Visit [mnys.org](https://mnys.org) or click [HERE](#)



# MNYS COVID-19: Recursos en Español

Visita [mnys.org](https://mnys.org) o haz clic [AQUÍ](#)



## Recursos COVID-19

Al implementar prácticas seguras y velar por todos nosotros, ¡SOMOS IGLESIA JUNTOS!



De nuestro obispo y líderes



Servicios digitales de la palabra MNYS



Recursos de comunicaciones digitales



Recursos para nuestros niños



**THE MNYS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**  
is an excellent tool for your congregation to help create awareness about your events.

**To list an event, please send us an email with the event's information, digital ads or links (if any), and a 50-word description (for publication).**

Help us create awareness of our email program among your congregation members by sharing this link:

**[mnys.org/email](https://mnys.org/email)**

*stay connected*  
with us!



**METROPOLITAN  
NEW YORK  
SYNOD**





**THANK YOU!**



**METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**