



THE UNIVERSITY *of*  
**MISSISSIPPI**  
Professional Development and Lifelong Learning

Division of Outreach - Office of Events and Services

## **PARIS-YATES CHAPEL PARAMETERS & PROTOCOLS** **Campus Sponsored Events & Weddings**

### **1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION**

In the face of the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Mississippi has undertaken extensive and exhaustive planning efforts in order to resume daily operations. We will continue to be driven by a guiding principle to prevent the spread of the virus to safeguard our community by following guidance of public health officials and agencies. We will keep in mind what is safe, feasible, practical and acceptable to meet the needs of our community.

We want those who are at increased risks of severe illness from COVID-19 and those who reside with them to consider their level of risk before attending any type of gatherings, large or small. We want these individuals to ensure that they are taking precautions to protect themselves. By attending any event at the Paris-Yates Chapel, you are attending at your own risk and the guidance outlined in this document should be followed.

In this document we want to outline policies and procedures regarding the use of the Paris-Yates Chapel for campus sponsored events and weddings. Please keep in mind that public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. All parties must stay informed and take the proper actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health.

Individuals are required to wear a cloth face covering over the nose and the mouth throughout the entire event unless the person is speaking.

#### **Health Recommendations for attendees**

- Anyone who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19 should not enter the building: cough, chills, shortening of breath or difficulty breathing, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, or known close contact with a person is confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Hand sanitizing station will be available for use upon entry to the venue.
- Should avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Should cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash and wash your hands immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

## Recommended Guidelines from the Mississippi State Department of Health

- Everyone 65 years of age or older should be **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 prior to attending in-person services (2 weeks after completing vaccination).
- Anyone 16 years or older with high-risk medical conditions should be **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 prior to attending in-person services (2 weeks after completing vaccination). For a list of high-risk medical conditions, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>
- MSDH recommends that everyone 16 and older be vaccinated against COVID-19, even if the person had COVID-19 in the past.

## Practice social distancing

- Throughout the entire event, individuals should maintain at least 6 feet (2 meters) from people who are not in the same household.
- Individuals should avoid shaking hands, hugging or any type of touching of others.

## Wear Masks

- All individuals must wear a [mask](#) in the building and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when social distancing is difficult.
  - Note: [Masks](#) should **not** be placed on:
    - Babies and children younger than 2 years old
    - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
    - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance
- Masks are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

## Protect people at risk for severe illness from COVID-19

- Individuals who have [an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19](#) should consider the risks and benefits of attending gatherings.

## 1.2 BUILDING ACCESS and SEATING CAPACITY

- If you receive a key to access the building, the key must be safely picked up from the Jackson Avenue Center at an agreeable time preferably 24 to 48 hours prior to the reservation date. The key must be returned within 24 hours of the end of the event to the key drop box located in the rear of the Jackson Avenue Center.
- The chapel should not be unlocked longer than 30 minutes prior to the reservation start time, unless other arrangements have been with the Chapel Director.
- The maximum existing seating capacity at the Paris - Yates Chapel is 200, but this capacity must be less during the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic (or until UM restrictions are lifted). Individuals should maintain at least 6 feet (2 meters) from people

who are not in the same household. Individuals are required to wear a cloth face covering over the nose and the mouth throughout the entire event unless the person is speaking.

- Those who reserve and rent the chapel should consider alternative modes of delivery such as, but not limited to, live streaming, hybrid, etc. The alternative modes will be at the expense of the person reserving and/or renting the building.
- Normally, there is an allowance of two weddings per weekend but due to the current circumstances surrounding COVID-19, only one wedding per weekend is allowed/scheduled until further notice.
- Individuals attending any events at the chapel will have to enter through one door and exit through a different door to keep the flow of traffic as safe as possible.

### 1.3 SANITATION OF THE BUILDING

- Commonly touched surfaces in the building will be sanitized at the beginning and end of each event.
- Signage will be placed in readily visible areas of the building to remind everyone of the best hygiene practices.
- Restrooms will be frequently cleaned and disinfected.

### 1.4 STUDENT AND DEPARTMENTAL RESERVATIONS

- All registered student organization (RSO) and university department events must adhere to COVID capacity limitations of the space and regulations currently in effect for UM and the venue. The COVID capacity of the Paris-Yates Chapel is 26 attendees. There may be opportunities where the space capacity could be increased, if the event has some attendees sitting together who reside in the same household. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring department or organization to identify same household attendees from single individuals.
- All registered student organizations (RSO) reservation requests the use of the Paris-Yates Chapel must be initiated by the organization in **the ForUM**. Proper protocols must be followed by initiating a request in order to obtain approvals before a reservation is confirmed.
- Any university departments requesting the use of the Paris-Yates Chapel must follow and be well informed on all University's Parameters and Protocols as well as the protocols outlined in this document. Proper protocols must be followed by initiating a request through **the ForUM** regarding the event in order to obtain approvals before a reservation is confirmed.