

A SAFE RETURN

Reopening Church Doors Amid A Pandemic

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First Episcopal District

Health Commission



Global

United States ▼

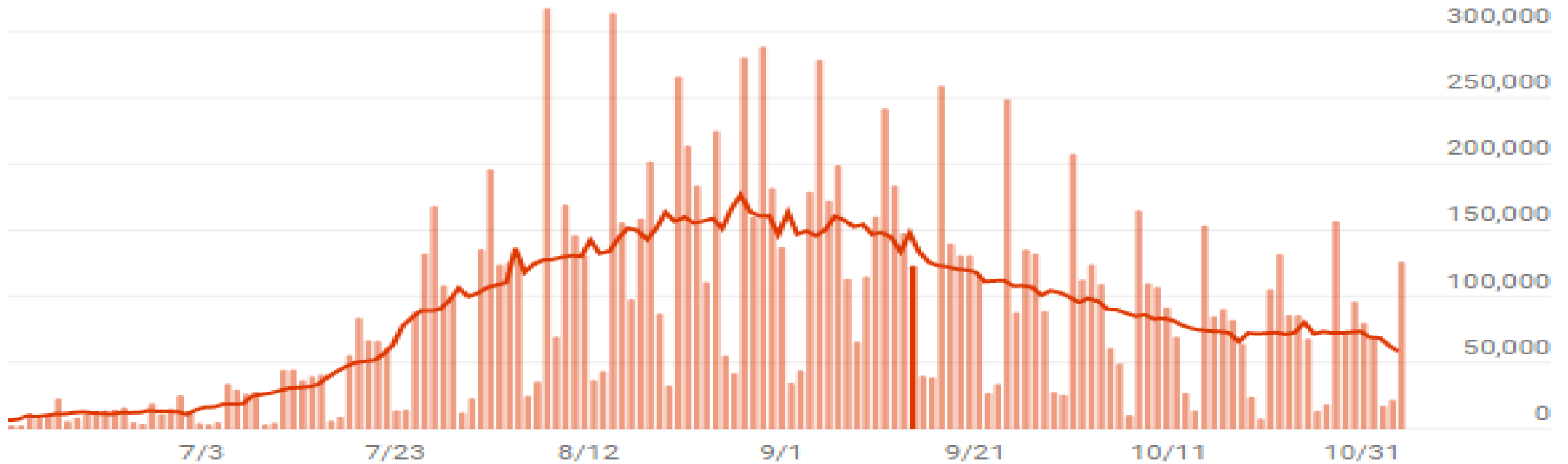
State/Province ▼

Confirmed

Deaths

Vaccinations

Daily new cases



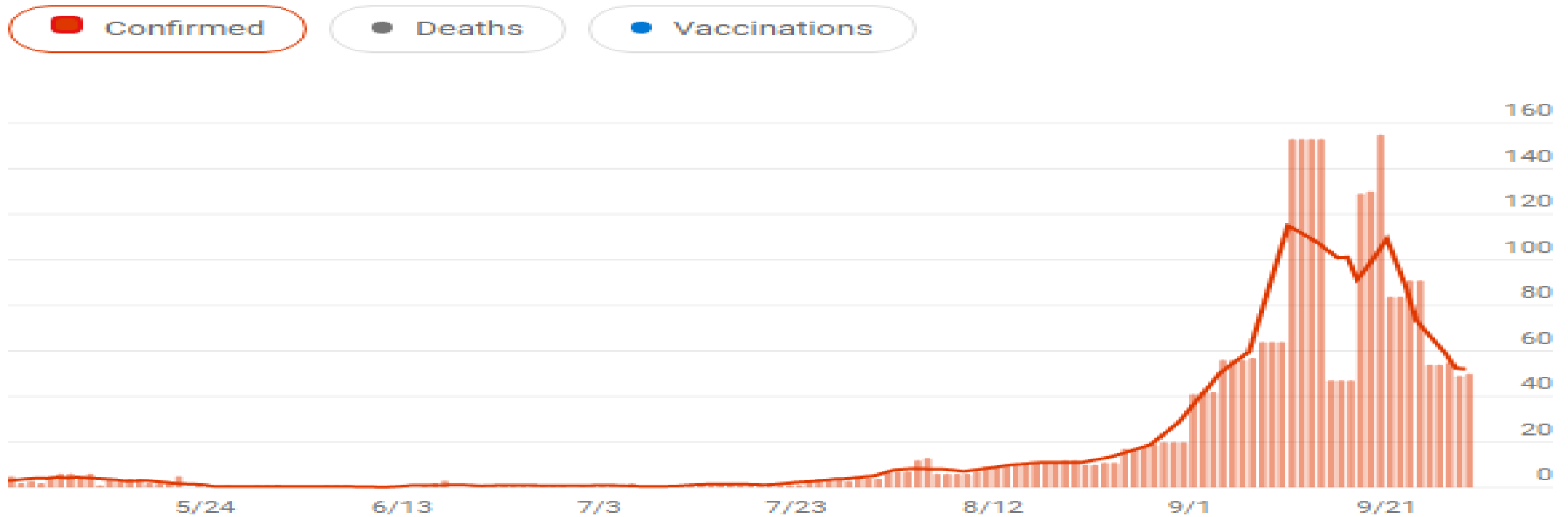
Cumulative cases

BERMUDA

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

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Daily new cases in Bermuda



[See more on statistics](#)

Physical Structure: Cleaning

- ❑ Every church should be deep cleaned.
- ❑ Deep cleaning is the process of removing dirt, allergens and debris deep beyond the surface level in the church.
- ❑ A disinfectant fogger is often a tool used to **kill bacteria, viruses and mold.**





Cleaning Protocol

- A schedule has been created to document the date of routine cleaning. Clean after every onsite gathering.
- Cleaning supplies and/or sanitary wipes must be available for individuals to clean before and after their usage of the bathroom.
- Please be mindful to **NOT** mix chemicals that can create a dangerous gas (Clorox and Ammonia).

Life Cycles of COVID- 19 On Surfaces

Metal - 5 days

Wood - 4 days

Plastics - 2 to 3 days

Stainless steel - 2 to 3 days

Cardboard – 24 hours

Copper – 4 hours

Aluminum – 2 to 8 hours

Glass – up to 5 days

Ceramics - 5 days

Paper: minutes to 5 days depending on the strain of coronavirus

COVID-19 Compliant Measures

- Water fountains to be disabled and covered. Water coolers have been removed and individual bottles of water can be provided if needed or desired.
- Coffee stations should be removed, and vending machines must be emptied.
- Signage has been posted regarding masks requirement, etc.
- Hand sanitizer has been placed at the entry and other areas as needed.
- Items such as Bibles, hymnals, pens, etc. to be removed.

Sanctuary Entry, Physical Distancing, Seating

- Touchless thermometers for temperature checks at one site of entry. **Fever is considered 99.9 to 100.1 or more.** Establish fever protocol (written).
- Masks are available in case an individual does not have one so individuals will not be denied access to the church.
- Changes have been made to ensure physical distancing with tape or other items/methods to block every other row and 6 feet between seating and diamond spacing.
- Records of attendance will be maintained (by name with contact information in case contact tracing is necessary). Ensure confidentiality of persons involved. Keep in a locked cabinet or secured computer file.

Worship Service

- ❑ Bulletins will not be handed out.
- ❑ Common tissue boxes have been removed.
- ❑ Nursery care or youth/children's church will not be available. (Revisit considering vaccination for ages 5-11 years of age).

Offering:

- ❑ The offering plate will not be passed among the congregation nor exchanged between ushers.
- ❑ Gloves and masks are available for the Finance Committee.

Other Considerations

- Use of COVID-19 Questionnaire
- Check with Church Insurance regarding of any of your COVID-19 protocol must be filed with them.
- Child proof cabinets where cleaning products are kept. Storage doors are locked.
- Multiple bathroom stalls, create a protocol to limit how many can be in use at once to avoid crowding and inability to physically distanced.

Choir Compliance

- Only Soloist and Praise teams of 2-6 people will be used at least 13 ft apart distancing and if diamond spacing can be accommodated.
- Individual microphones will be assigned during each service. There will be no sharing of microphones. Use of disposable microphone covers also recommended.
- Microphones will be fully cleaned at the end of each service, ideally by the persons who used it.
- Wind instruments are not allowed at this time.





**“Follow my
decrees and
be careful to
obey my laws,
and you will
live safely in
the land.”**

Leviticus 25:18 (NIV)