

## GUIDANCE TO LIMIT POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

August 2020

For the members and friends of Fullview Missionary Baptist Church, gathering together for worship is at the heart of what it means to be a community of faith. But as Americans are now aware, gatherings present a risk for increasing spread of COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency. To discern God's call for Fullview Missionary Baptist Church, the pastor and members of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Task Force (Task Force) have relied on two guideposts: biblical truths and scientific knowledge.

The Great Commandment states, "You shall love the Lord your God ... and love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37–39, ESV). During this pandemic, love for ourselves is expressed in the ways we protect ourselves from exposure to the coronavirus. In the same way, love for our neighbor is expressed in the ways we protect them from exposure to the coronavirus.<sup>1</sup>

This pandemic has dramatically changed our lives and adversely affected churches across the world. Consultation with the Shelby County Health Department has helped us navigate the challenges of COVID-19 and protect the health of those in the church and community at this critical time. This document outlines our efforts to protect our members and staff from exposure and adhere to guidance from local officials.

### Safety Actions

Several safety actions have been put in place to limit potential exposure and protect the health of the members and staff.

- Each individual entering the sanctuary must submit to a temperature check. The information is recorded, and a log is maintained.
- Each individual must complete a COVID-19 screening form prior to entering the sanctuary.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://christchapelinternational.ca/when-your-church-reopens-how-to-meet-safely>



- The use of masks among staff and congregants is required when on the church campus.
- The cleaning crew has a schedule of increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
- All drinking fountains have been shutdown to minimize the risk of exposure.
- Clergy, staff, choir, volunteers and attendees at the services must follow social distancing guidance to lessen their risk of exposure or transmission.
- The podium and all microphones will be “wiped down” after use.
- Physical guides, such as tape on floors or walkways and signs on walls, will be posted to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating “one-way entrance and exit).
- The Building Engineer and Pastor Peggs maintain a checklist of recommendations for safe worship.
- Methods used to receive financial contributions have been modified. Members are able to drop off contributions on Sundays and Wednesdays. In addition, electronic funds transfer options are available.
- Members of the Security Ministry are on campus during worship service to ensure that safety actions are observed, and social distancing is maintained.

## Notification Guidance

Staff or members who are sick or who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 are encouraged to stay home. The pastor has been designated as the person responsible for reporting and responding to COVID-19 concerns. Staff, ministers, volunteers and members should contact the pastor if they become sick or are in contact with others diagnosed with COVID-19. In the event, a person diagnosed with COVID-19 is determined to be in the sanctuary or on campus, the following actions will be taken:



- The individual will be moved to a separate designated area.
- A member of the Security Ministry will assist in getting the individual safely transported to their home or a healthcare facility.
- The pastor will notify local health officials if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the facility and communicate with staff and congregants about potential exposure while maintaining confidentiality as required by applicable laws and in accordance with religious practices.
- The area will be properly cleaned and disinfected before activities resume.
- The pastor will advise staff and members with symptoms of COVID-19 or who have tested positive for COVID-19 not to return to the facility until they have met the quarantine requirements.