

Miracle Missionary Baptist Church

Safe Church Guidelines

A guide to inform on planning and preparing for in person gathering

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. III John 2

To limit the spread of Covid-19 and reduce the risk of exposure to our church family, we ask that you please read and adhere to the following guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being of the church congregation.

These measures are to maintain a safe environment for Sunday School and Worship Service.

Adjustments will be made to our current procedures if or when the city and/or state policy's change.

Section 1: Key Definitions/Phrases

Understanding the Language

- At Risk Population-Older people (65 years and older), people living in a nursing home or long-term facility, people with pre-existing medical conditions and those who are immunocompromised appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.
- Social Distancing (aka Physical Distance)-Keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. It is suggested that at least six (6) feet from other people.
- Fever-The CDC considers a person to have a fever when he or she has a measured temperature of at least 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)-Equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that can cause serious injuries and illness. Such as wearing a mask, gloves or face shield.
- Covid-19- COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) is an illness caused by a virus. This virus is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world. It is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person.

- Delta Variant- The delta variant is a strain of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the delta variant was first identified in India in December 2020, and it was detected in the United States in March 2021.
- Vaccine- a substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against one or several diseases, prepared from the causative agent of a disease, its products, or a synthetic substitute, treated to act as an antigen without inducing the disease.
- Vaccination- treatment with a vaccine to produce immunity against a disease; inoculation.

Section 2: Safety Measures Preventive Actions

- Hand-Washing (20 seconds recommended)
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth and mask
- Replace disposable mask after single use
- Avoid sharing materials
- Avoid close contact with others
- Practice social distancing (6ft of separation)
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Face Masks-required for all who enter the building. It should fully cover nose and mouth.
- Gloves-(optional) Note: Gloves are not a substitute for hand hygiene. Hand Hygiene means cleaning your hands by using either hand washing (washing hands with soap and water) or a alcohol-based hand sanitizer including foam or gel.
- Face Shield-(optional)-Provides face and eye protection from splashes and sprays.
- Stay home if you are ill
- Stay home if you are caring for the ill

**These things we should communicate to each other every day to stay safe and well.*

Section 3: Sunday School/Worship Service

Sunday School and Worship Service will continue to broadcast on Zoom and on Conference Call every Sunday for those who do not feel comfortable attending.

Sunday School

9:45 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

We will begin with one Adult Sunday School class meeting in East Wing until further notice. Additional classes will be phased in at a later date.

The Nursery, Kinder, Primary, Junior and Teen Sunday School classes will be added in phases.

**As preparations continue for safe gathering, adjustments will be made along the way as we consider the best practices for the church congregation.*

Worship Service

11:00 a.m.

- For safety reasons, bring your own bible. To avoid unnecessary contact and risk; bibles, bulletins, flyers, fans, visitor cards, pens and hymnals will not be available. The announcements, hymns and altar song will display on monitors.
- During Altar call, please remain seated and bow your head for prayer or you may kneel down in the area where you are seated. No one will be permitted to proceed to the front by the pulpit.
- During the Invitation if you have a prayer request, praise report, or desire membership by Christian Experience, Statement Re-Dedication or Baptism, please stand, speak your request and the clerk will record your commitment, request or decision.
- Tithing/Offering/Giving-After the benediction, placing your envelope in the offering box which will be located at the exit points. Mail or online giving is an option.
- Choirs, Praise Team, Musicians-Choirs will not be allowed to sing and praise dancers will not be allowed to participate in the worship experience until further notice. As forceful breathing and exhaling can expel the virus further if someone is infected. Music will be pre-recorded or one soloist accompanied by a musician(s) each Sunday.
- The mics, headphones drumsticks, computer, laptop, etc. will be cleaned after every use.
- Remind each other, **NO** hand shaking, high fiving or hugs. Consider alternate greetings (elbow bump, waving, special hand signs, etc.).

**On first Sunday, as you enter the building, you will receive your communion kit to hold during service. At the appropriate time, we will commune together. At the end of service as you drop your offering in the offering box, there will be a trash can to dispose of your used communion kit. Please do not leave your trash in the pews, in the hymnal holders or on the floor.*

Section 4: Important Considerations

- Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning
- Open doors and windows for cross ventilation
- Cones or other clear markings to demonstrate separation distance at facility and restroom entrances
- Sanitizing Stations throughout the building
- Specific traffic flow entering and exiting the building

- Facility cleaning and disinfecting with focus on high touch areas and surfaces (tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.)
- Restrooms-Limit on number of people allowed in restrooms at the same time. Disinfecting of restrooms before and during service. Restroom attendant for each restroom.
- First Responders/Medical Support-Church members in the medical field who are willing and able to be available during worship service if/as needed.
- Coffee Station, Water Fountain and Snacks-To minimize touch points, the water fountain will be off limits. Bottled water will be available. The kitchen will not have the coffee station nor will snacks be allowed before or after Sunday School. The Kitchen will be closed for those services until further notice.
- To limit touching, the office will not hand out change. Be prepared by making sure you have the exact amount you wish to give for service.
- Isolation Room-If for any reason someone becomes ill during service, one of the adult classrooms in the West Wing will be designated to attend to that member.
- Contact Tracing-Volunteers who will be willing to take on the responsibility to call members in case someone who attended Sunday School and/or Worship Service has a confirmed positive Covid result or has been in contact with someone who tested positive.

****In order to be successful with contact tracing, there will be a sign in sheet for members and visitors. Each individual and or family will sign in leaving their phone number and address.***

Section 5: Reopening Date Has Been Set (November 7, 2021) Celebrate the Return

Communication for Sunday School and Worship Service will be announced weeks in advance.

Section 6: Other Ministry Endeavors

Communications for in person gathering for other ministry endeavors will be announced in advance.

- Bible Study-Afternoon and Evening
- Prayer Meeting
- Choir/Praise Dance Rehearsal
- Ministry Meetings/Events
- Children's Church

****Bible Study presently on conference call.***