

Northside Sports & Recreation Ministries is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all its staff, participants, coaches, instructors, parents, and guests. To help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in our church community, we have partnered with Northside Methodist Preschool along with the other Ministries of the Northside Church and developed the following Pandemic Response Plan (PRP).

The procedures outlined below are not intended to be permanent but will remain in place until Northside Church Sports & Rec. Ministries communicate otherwise. Also, this PRP will be updated as federal, state, and local guidelines and regulations change.

**Resources and Guiding Entities**

The COVID-19 PRP is based on recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) (CDC) and Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), and [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/) (OSHA), including standards related to COVID-19; as well as Governor Brian Kemp’s [executive orders](https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders) as they pertain to COVID-19. Also, a committee of the school employees with varied expertise worked together to develop this plan.

**Implementation**

To be effective, this plan requires the full cooperation of all our stakeholders, including our families. All stakeholders are responsible for complying with the Northside Church Sports & Rec. Ministries PRP from the beginning of a class, camp, or league season until further notice. This plan includes recommendations for families and steps our ministry and the church are taking to mitigate COVID-19 contagion.

This PRP addresses the enhanced procedures that Northside Church has implemented as well as the responsibilities of our ministry and its stakeholders, including:

* screening procedures and policies for anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms;
* daily prevention procedures, including temperature checks, hygiene, and respiratory etiquette;
* shared spaces within the church and facilities
* cleaning and sanitizing
* identification and isolation of sick individuals
* Returning to Sports & Rec activities after an illness

**Responsibilities of Northside Church Sports & Rec. Ministries and Families**

**Health Screenings and Symptom Assessment and Reporting**

We will continue to encourage staff and families to self-monitor for [signs and symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html). As defined by the CDC, individuals with COVID-19 may have any of the following symptoms, which may appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus

* Fever (100.4F or greater) or chills
* Cough
* Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
* Fatigue
* Muscle or body aches
* New loss of taste or smell
* Sore throat
* Congestion or runny nose
* Nausea or vomiting
* Diarrhea.

*According to the CDC, this list of symptoms does not include all possible symptoms. Please contact your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.*

**Before arriving at a Sports & Rec. Practice, Game, and or Afterschool Activity**

We ask that all families and staff pledge to be aware and forthcoming of the health status of themselves and their household, communicate with our Sports & Rec. Ministry team absences and reason for absence, and abstain from actions that would mask symptoms of infectious illness, including but not limited to administering fever-reducing medications such as Tylenol, Motrin, or Advil.

Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or know that they have COVID-19 should isolate at home. In addition, parents should communicate with the Director of Sports & Rec. Ministries, Kelley Stonis, directly at 404-358-3934 or work 678-298-5066 -If your child or a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, or has **close contact** with someone positive or symptomatic of COVID-19.

\*CDC currently defines “**close contact**” as “someone who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated.”

**Temperature and Symptoms Checks**

Until further notice, temperatures will be taken on all Sports & Rec. participants/players, volunteer coaches, staff, family, and visitors entering the church building. Anyone with a temperature greater than 100.4 will be sent home immediately.

Class instructors and coaches ’ temperatures will be monitored as they enter the building.

Sports & Rec. Participants/player's temperatures will be monitored by the staff. If the screening reveals any COVID-19 symptoms, the individual will immediately leave the campus or will report to a designated isolation room until we can evaluate their condition and determine the appropriate next steps. Please self-monitor at home to avoid any uncomfortable situations.

**Illness**

**Protocol for an instructor, coach, or participant/player who has tested positive for COVID-19**.

* The individual will immediately be taken to a chaperoned isolation area and a family member will be called.
* Our Sports & Rec. The Ministry team determines whether the child or staff member must go home immediately. Our team will make the determination and we expect all families to agree to the medical decisions. For families with multiple children, both children will be excluded from the Sports & Rec. Activity if one of the children does not meet the criteria for health.
* The classroom/gym will be closed for 72 hours, thoroughly disinfected and sanitized, and the remainder of the class/practice will be temporarily relocated.
* The GA Department of Health and parents will be notified immediately while maintaining confidentiality.
* The participant/player and/or staff member not be allowed to return until they have met all GA Dept. of Health and CDC criteria to do so.
* Anyone exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 will be required to stay home and monitor for symptoms, following CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
* We will follow all local health officials to determine the next steps and potential closure of the classroom or school.

**Protocol for an instructor, coach, or child who has a family member who lives with them and tests positive for COVID-19.**

* For the continued good health of everyone at Northside Church Sports & Rec. Ministries, we ask that all stakeholders be forthcoming with any information about close contact with someone with COVID-19. Those individuals should voluntarily self-isolate for 14 days after exposure. If this occurs, please contact us as soon as possible. Communication will be sent to families in the class.
* At this time, the GA Dept. of Health recommends waiting 7 days from the date of exposure (sheltering in place at home) with a confirmed case of COVID-19 before getting tested so there is less chance for a false negative result.
* All reopening of an individual class or the church to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will follow the guidance of the GA Dept. of Health and Bright from the Start state licensing.

**Mitigation Strategies**

We have implemented heightened infection control procedures outlined below. Even though we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure or transmission of COVID-19, our coordinated efforts can help to greatly reduce the risk.

**Handwashing Etiquette**

Frequent Handwashing is critical in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Northside Sports & Recreation will provide and maintain hand soap and/or sanitizer stations. Hand sanitizer dispensers (sanitizers of greater than 60 percent alcohol) will be at entrances and other locations throughout the church and on the grass field. Instructors/Coaches will help children clean their hands before entering the classroom or gym at any time during the day. All staff is instructed to frequently wash their hands throughout the day for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, but especially at the beginning and end of their workday, before and after mealtimes, after using the restroom and assisting in the restroom with participants.

**Respiratory etiquette**

Staff, instructors, coaches, parents, participants, and visitors should cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose, and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in provided trash receptacles and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward.

**Face coverings**

Masks are required for all Sports & Rec. participants while entering and exiting the church building. Participants/players are not required to wear masks during afterschool activities, practices, and/or games but they are strongly encouraged to be worn in times of high traffic (carpool, bathroom breaks, hall transitions) and/or while resting on the sidelines. If your player would like to wear a mask during play, that is at the parent’s discretion. Masks are required at all times on the church premises, even on the grass field during Soccer games, for all coaches, instructors, staff, and spectators kindergarten & up.

**Physical distancing, and group gatherings**

Our Sports and Recreation Ministry recognizes that it is difficult to have participants/players maintain social distancing with any regularity. To minimize participant interaction, participants will be grouped according to the activity/team and or league they have signed up for and will experience the class, skills & drills session and/or games with their small group for the duration of their Sports & Rec. activity/season. Within their class/team and/or league, social distancing will be limited on the playing field however, participants/players will maintain a distance of 6’ and proper social distancing will be expected while resting on the sidelines, during huddle, timeouts, practices, and games.

**Water and water fountains**

All water fountains will be sealed off as water and touch combine to make these vehicles of transmission. Sports & Rec. participants are encouraged to bring a water bottle each day.

**Cleaning** **and disinfection of the Church and the Sports & Rec. classes/gym**

The Church uses CDC-approved medical-grade disinfectants and has implemented updated cleaning and disinfection practices. This includes routine cleaning and disinfecting of work surfaces, equipment, and other areas in the church including restrooms, workrooms, classrooms, gymnasium, etc. We will practice frequent cleaning and disinfecting during the day of high-touch areas and items, such as controls, door handles, elevator panels, railings, copy machines, etc. All Sports & Rec. equipment, balls, Ob Nets, goals, etc. will be cleaned between classes, practices, and games. Our Maintenance Coordinator and our Sports & Rec. The Ministry team along with all instructors/coaches will work diligently to ensure a clean and sanitized environment.

Additional communications and training will be ongoing as COVID-19 guidelines and requirements change. If you have any questions, please contact Kelley Stonis, Director of Sports & Recreation Ministries.

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