

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 communicates otherwise. In addition, 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. In addition, 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 to a Sports & Rec. Activity/Camp**

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.

Families are asked to contact Director of Sports & Rec. Ministries, Kelley Stonis, directly at,

404-358-3934 or work 678-298-5066 - their child or a member of their household tests positive for COVID-19, experiences symptoms of COVID-19, or is exposed to someone who is positive or symptomatic of COVID-19.

**Temperature Checks**

Until further notice, temperatures will be taken on all children, staff, family, and visitors entering the church building. Anyone with a temperature greater than 100.4 will be sent home immediately.

Class instructors and our counselor’s temperatures will be monitored as they enter the building.

Children’s temperatures will be monitored by the Sports & Rec. staff.

Please self-monitor at home to avoid any uncomfortable situations.

If the screening reveals any COVID-19 symptoms, the individual will immediately leave the campus or will report to a designated isolation room until the we can evaluate their condition and determine the appropriate next steps.

**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. Instructors/Coaches will help children clean their hands prior to entering the classroom or gym at any time during the day. All staff are 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 work day, before and after mealtimes, after using the restroom, and assisting in the restroom with participants.

**Respiratory etiquette**

Staff, 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**

Until further notice, our Sports & Rec. participants/campers will not be required to wear masks. If parents choose to send their child to a Sports & Rec. activity or camp with a mask, the staff cannot be responsible for keeping the masks on any child. Instructors and staff will wear masks in times of high traffic (carpool, bathroom breaks, hall transitions).

**Physical distancing, and group gatherings**

Our Sports and Recreation Ministry recognizes that it is difficult to have children maintain social distancing with any regularity. To minimize participant interaction, participants will be grouped according to the activity they have signed up, adhering to CDC recommendations and will experience classes with their small group plus possibly one other group (cohort) for the duration of their Sports & Rec. activity/season. Within their cohort, social distancing will not be enforced. Cohorts will be required to social distance from other cohorts in other Sports & Rec. classes or camps.

**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**

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, 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. Our Maintenance Coordinator and our Sports & Rec. Ministry team along with all instructors/coaches will work diligently to ensure a clean and sanitized environment.

**Identification and isolation of sick individuals**

If a student or staff member is sick or experiencing symptoms at school, they will be taken directly to the isolation area. Our Sports & Rec. Ministry team will determine whether the child or staff member must go home immediately.

**Returning to Sports & Rec. Activities**

Any participant and or staff member who is absent or sent home due to illness shall not be permitted back in the church again until they have:

* Been fever and fever-medication-free for at least 72 hours, AND
* Other symptoms have improved

Anyone who has had a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 OR has suspected COVID-19 due to exposure/close contact may return to Northside Church when:

 *In the case of* ***SYMPTOMATIC*** *persons*

* Fever free for 72 hours without the aid of fever reducing medications AND
* Symptoms have improved AND
* At least 10 days have passed since the first symptom appeared

*In the case of* ***ASYMPTOMATIC*** *persons*

* At least 10 days have passed since the positive laboratory test OR
* Should anyone be ASYMPTOMATIC and later develop symptoms, please follow the guidance for SYMPTOMATIC persons.

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.