

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 such as Tylenol, Motrin or Advil.

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

**Illness**

**Protocol for an instructor, coach or child 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. Ministry team determine 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 preschool if one of the children does not meet the criteria for health.
* The classroom will be closed for 72 hours, thoroughly disinfected and sanitized, and the remainder of the class will be temporarily relocated.
* The GA Department of Health and parents will be notified immediately while maintaining confidentiality.
* The child 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 next steps and potential closure of 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 of 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 the families in the class.
* At this time, the GA Dept. of Health recommends waiting 7 days from 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 completely 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. 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.

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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