

Best Grove Missionary Baptist Church Covid-19 Mitigation Protocols and Re-Entry and Worship Guidelines

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. The Best Grove Missionary Planning Committee (the Committee) consisting of Deacons, Trustees, Mothers, Health Team, and Ushers established enhanced health and safety measures for all worshippers. While attending Best Grove Missionary Baptist Church worshippers must follow all posted and provided instructions, both oral and written.

Because COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is spread mainly from person-to-person contact, the Committee has developed preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, the Committee cannot guarantee that its members and visitors will not become infected with COVID-19. It is our expectation however, that all worshippers will fully comply with established mitigation measures. Failure to follow these measures will result in an increased risk of infection to all who attend our services.

Wearing a mask will be required at all times by worshippers to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. The mask must be worn to cover the mouth and nose at all times. Consistent with CDC guidelines, worshippers will also be encouraged to practice hand hygiene and social distancing of six feet.

Our COVID protocols have been adjusted to ensure an **extra-layer** of protection and safety. We are making these adjustments under the guidance of CDC and medical professionals who are constantly reviewing information regarding the COVID virus and variants.

Procedures

1. Worshippers with these common COVID symptoms are asked **not** to attend church: **fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.**
 - A. If you have any of the above symptoms and are unsure whether or not it is COVID, you are advised to get a Rapid Test or a PCR test (polymerase chain reaction). To prevent exposing others, quarantine or isolate yourself after taking the test.
 - B. Worshippers who have symptoms, have taken a Rapid or PCR Test and have a negative result, **may** attend church.
2. On a voluntary basis, members are encouraged to provide the Church Secretary a copy of their COVID-19 Vaccination Record card prior to attending a church service. This will help to ensure a safe environment for worship. Although our desire is for everyone to be fully vaccinated, we understand there are cases where medical exemptions have been authorized.

Entering The Church Vestibule

1. The Vestibule is the primary entrance for all worshipers. The Pastor will be exempt from using the vestibule for entry but will have his temperature checked accordingly.
2. Ushers, Medical Team Members and Trustees are asked to assemble 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the service to manage the entry of worshipers. Additionally, Deacons and Mothers are asked to be stationed at the fellowship and rear entry doors to redirect worshiper to the vestibule entrance.
3. Worshipers will enter wearing a mask that covers the mouth and nose (preferably a N-95 or KN-95) and proceed to the temperature check station forming a line ensuring six foot distancing.
4. If you are entering with your family (i.e., worshipers of the same household) and you want to be seated together, wait for all parties before proceeding to the temperature check station.
5. A medical team member will check your temperature using an infrared thermometer and guide you through the process to the next check point if your temperature is acceptable.
 - A. If the worshiper's temperature reading is above 100 degrees Fahrenheit he/she will be asked to take a seat in a designated area. A temperature recheck will be conducted after 5 minutes.
 - B. If the temperature continues to exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the worshiper will **not** be permitted into the sanctuary and will be directed to the nearest Walgreen, CVS or Urgent Care for further testing.
6. Before being seated by an Usher, worshipers are advised to :
 - A. Attend to personal care needs (i.e., use the restroom, and etc.).
 - B. Deposit church offering into the designated box,
 - C. Use Hand-sanitizing solutions as needed, and
 - D. On 4th Sundays, pick up Holy Communion.

Entering The Sanctuary - Follow instructions given by the Usher

1. Deacons and Mothers will continue to have reserved seating on the initial pew(s) and be provided social distancing.
2. Roped off pews shall not to be used.
3. Ushers will seat worshippers in pews sequentially from the front of the church to the back.
4. Under the direction of the usher, families will be seated on the same pew. This accommodation is for people of the same household.
5. Once seated in the sanctuary and you find it **absolutely** necessary to leave, take your belongings with you as you may not be able to return to your previous seat. The usher may need to assign the worshiper to a different seat to prevent him/her from crossing over someone.

Exiting the Sanctuary - The Pastor will provide the Benediction and turn departure instructions over to the Ushers.

1. The Pastor, Deacons and Mothers will be the first to exit through the doors adjacent to the pulpit as directed by the ushers
2. A designated Deacon or Mother will be assembled along Memorial Hall leading to the exit doors guiding worshippers to the parking lots.
3. The Ushers will direct worshippers to stand one row at a time beginning in the front and to exit at the doors adjacent to the pulpit and to maintain social distancing until all worshippers have exited the building.
4. Only members of the Finance Team and Trustees will remain in the church after the conclusion of services. The Pastor may authorize other church officials to remain and complete additional church functions.