

# Gospel Mission Baptist Church (GMBC) Public Health Wellness Commitments

We promote [healthy hygiene practices](#)

- Encourage staff and congregants to maintain good hand hygiene, [washing hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- We have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for those who can safely use hand sanitizer), tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- We encourage staff and congregants to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Whenever soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol is used.
- We post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and how to foster mitigation, such as [washing hands](#), covering coughs and sneezes, and wearing masks.

Masks and ventilation

- We encourage use of [masks](#) among staff and congregants. We clean frequently touched surfaces and shared objects in between uses.
- Leadership has developed a schedule of increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Our ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of air as much as possible by HVAC and purification systems and fans, etc.

We promote social distancing

- We limit the size of gatherings in accordance with the guidance and directives of state and local authorities and subject to the protections of the First Amendment and any other applicable federal law.
- We promote [social distancing](#) at services and other gatherings, ensuring that clergy, staff, choir, volunteers and attendees at the services follow social distancing, as circumstances and faith traditions allow, to lessen their risk.

Gospel Mission Baptist Church has taken steps to minimize community sharing of worship materials and other items as follows:

- Consistent with the community's faith tradition, we are temporarily limiting the sharing of frequently touched objects, such as worship aids, hymnals, religious texts and other bulletins, books, or other items passed or shared among congregants, and encouraging to adopt using electronic media means.
- We have modified the methods used to receive financial contributions.
- Shaking hands, hugging, or kissing) is limited among members of the faith community.

## Nursery/Childcare

- We follow the CDC's information on [preventing the spread of COVID-19 in childcare settings](#) and adapt as needed.

## Staffing and Training

- Clergy and staff is trained in the above safety actions.

## Pre Screening procedures

- We encourage staff or congregants who are sick or who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home. Consider posting signs at entrances with this information.

## Plan for when a staff member or congregant becomes sick

- A separate area is identified for anyone who exhibits [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 during hours of operation, and children are not left without adult supervision.
- Procedures for safely transporting anyone who becomes [sick](#) at the facility to their home or a healthcare facility is managed via 911 Emergency services.
- We will notify local health officials if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the facility and communicate with staff and congregants about potential exposure while maintaining confidentiality as required by the ADA.
- GMBC advises those with [exposure](#) to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to [stay home and self-monitor](#) for symptoms, and follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.
- GMBC closed off areas used by a [sick](#) person and do not use the area until after cleaning and disinfection. Ensure [safe and correct application](#) of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- GMBC advise staff and congregants with [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 or who have tested positive for COVID-19 not to return to the facility until they have met CDC's [criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).

## Maintenance of healthy operations

Our volunteers often perform important duties (e.g., greeters, ushers, childcare), so we monitor, plan, and train them in safety and cleaning. We communicate clearly with staff and congregants about actions being taken to protect their health.

## Messages

- A link to CDC Covid 19 digital resources are on the CDC's [communications resources](#) main page.

