

Covid Policy Update – August 25, 2021

We updated our Covid Policy at the beginning of August, and at that time, we started suggesting face coverings when we gathered together.

Now at the end of the month, cases continue to rise, and we have had one person in our congregation test positive this past week. They are doing ok as of today, but we want to make sure that we do everything we can to protect our church gathering so that we can continue to enjoy the spiritual blessing and benefit of meeting together in worship and seek to follow God's Word in wisdom: **Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, 25 not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.**

In addition, Wake County, along with the town of Zebulon, issued a declaration requiring face-coverings in all indoor public places, regardless of vaccination status, that went into effect on August 20, 2021. You can read the declaration by [clicking here](#).

Thus, we intend to comply with the requirement and endeavor to honor the government, obey our Lord, love and serve our neighbors, and gather together as the body of Christ.

Here are the steps we are taking to help keep our gatherings and ministry protected. (We will re-evaluate this approach as the current situation develops.)

1. We humbly ask for you to wear a **mask** while inside the church building, provided you are able to do so. There are exceptions for young children, those with medical and other conditions, and others in specific situations. You can find the details in the declaration.
2. We encourage **social distancing** when possible.
3. We encourage anyone with a fever or showing other symptoms to attend our **services online and stay connected with the church via social media, texts, or phone calls**.
4. Our greeters will **monitor temperatures** as people arrive inside.
5. We will be live streaming the Worship Service to the **Fellowship Hall** to allow more physical distance between people.

We hope and pray these additional measures will be unnecessary in the very near future.

And let us show the **love** of Christ to one another and treat each other with **grace** over these issues.

We would also ask you to **join us in prayer**.

Would you pray that God would protect the unity of this body?

Would you pray that we would not let any of these decisions create an opportunity for division, but rather we would see this as a moment to set aside personal liberty for love (as Paul encourages in 1 Corinthians 9)?

May we have the mindset to “endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ” (1 Cor. 9:12).

Would you join us in praying for those in our community and in our own church who are battling COVID-19?

Would you pray the Lord would care for them and restore their health?

Would you also pray for the end of this pandemic?

Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.

Let’s love one another in this way as we seek to set an example for each other and the community to which we minister.

And we won’t let Covid or anything else keep us from being the church, the body of Christ. While our gatherings may look different from time to time, let us not forsake gathering together, let us not stop learning about God, let us not stop worshipping him, let us not stop praying for one another, let us not stop loving one another, and let us not stop sharing the gospel with a lost and dying world.

- Pastor Josh

(Prayer echoed from Bayleaf Baptist Church)