

# COVID-19 POLICIES & PROCEDURES

GREEN LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH

## INTRO

The following COVID-19 policy updates for Green Level Baptist Church were voted on and approved after several hours of deliberation by our Church Council on **Monday, August 16, 2021**. This meeting was called in light of recent positive COVID-19 cases within our church family, as well as an increase both in positive cases and hospitalizations in our area due to the Delta variant. Though there is certainly a spectrum of views on how best to move forward in these difficult and disorienting days, the goal of the Church Council in these matters is to glorify God and serve the spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and relational needs of our church family. There are other, previously-approved policies that were left in-place, but these policies reflect changes to, or specific votes on, our current policies and procedures.

### A. MASKS

- Since Wake County has been deemed an area of high transmission of COVID-19, and in light of the virulence of the Delta variant, following CDC guidance we recommend attendees wear a mask at indoor church-related activities and highly encourage unvaccinated attendees to do so.
- We will continue to maintain an 'exemption' for those leading, singing, and speaking during our Worship Service.
- For our Children's Ministry, we ask that all adult volunteers wear a mask when participating and volunteering/leading in indoor Children's Ministry activities and/or programs.

### B. FOOD & DRINK

- Meals should be allowed, except for buffet-style service. However, we should not plan or host any churchwide events – individual groups only. We should encourage but not require seating outdoors.

### C. LORD'S SUPPER

- We will continue to observe the Lord's Supper with prepackaged elements distributed by our Deacons in baskets as worshippers come into our Sanctuary.

### D. OFFERING

- We will continue to not pass the offering plates in our Worship Service, but rather to invite members and guests who wish to give in-person to use an appropriately labeled box.

## E. DEFINING AND DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN COVID-19 EXPOSURE

- We will continue to utilize the CDC’s definition for “close contact” to define “exposure” within our church, maintaining the distinction between Pod 1 and Pod 2 exposure.

### *CDC Definition for “Close Contact”*

- Individuals have experienced “close contact” if they have been within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-period starting from 2 days before the infected individual had any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic infected individuals, 2 days before they received a positive COVID-19 test).

### *Pod 1 Exposure*

- These individuals meet the CDC’s definition for “close contact” with someone infected with COVID-19 (above).
- Individuals with Pod 1 exposure, as well as all members of their household, should follow our “Quarantine Policy After Pod 1 Exposure” (below).

### *Pod 2 Exposure*

- These individuals, though in the same room as the infected individual for a service, class, group, meeting, etc., do not meet the CDC’s definition for “close contact” with someone infected with COVID-19 (above).
- Individuals with Pod 2 exposure, as well as all members of their household, may continue to participate in in-person Green Level services, classes, groups, meetings, etc., so long as neither they nor any member of their household (a) experience COVID-19 symptoms or (b) receive a positive COVID-19 test.

## F. QUARANTINE POLICY AFTER POD 1 EXPOSURE

- Based upon information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Green Level will adopt both the definition of “fully-vaccinated,” as well as the following quarantine policies for those with Pod 1 exposure and no symptoms.

### *CDC and NCDHHS Definition for “Fully-Vaccinated”*

- Individuals are considered “fully-vaccinated” if it has been (a) at least 14 days since receiving their second dose in a 2-dose series or (b) at least 14 days since receiving their one-dose of a single-dose series.
- All other individuals are considered “not fully-vaccinated.”

### *“Fully-Vaccinated” & No Symptoms*

- After a Pod 1 exposure, these individuals are not required to quarantine.

- After a Pod 1 exposure, these individuals should wear a mask at in-person church gatherings (a) until 10 days after exposure or (b) until they have received a negative test result at least 3 days after the exposure.

***“Not Fully-Vaccinated” & No Symptoms***

- After a Pod 1 exposure, these individuals, as well as all members of their household, should quarantine for a minimum of 10 days from the date of last exposure, counting from the day after exposure.
- After a Pod 1 exposure, these individuals, as well as all members of their household, may return to in-person church gatherings after 10 days if no symptoms arise.