

## **New Life Church COVID-19 Policy and Procedures**

**November 24, 2021**

The protocols defined in this document apply to all people attending worship services or participating in ministries on the New Life Church campus. The scope includes New Life Church, its daughter churches that meet on the New Life campus, and New Life Community Christian School (NLCCS). NLCCS has developed a complimentary set of protocols tailored to the unique needs of school families and staff. Together, the New Life Church and NLCCS Covid-19 protocols are aligned to provide a comprehensive set of best practices to protect our members and guests in every way possible, guide our response when Covid-19 directly impacts our community and communicate what we believe to be the best policies and practices which will enable us to love one another well in the midst of these difficult circumstances. Living within these guidelines is part of a call to image Christ in his self-sacrificial love for us as is commanded by the apostle Paul in Philippians 2.

The below guidelines are effective **November 24, 2021**. Guidelines are subject to change based on recommended current health and safety protocols. Notifications of changes will be made by email and printed copies available upon request. It is the responsibility of each person to receive and read updated policies. The policy is posted on our website (<https://www.newlifecrc.org/ministry-during-covid-19>).

### **Symptoms of Covid-19**

The following are symptoms consistent with Covid-19. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Consider whether you have begun to experience any symptoms in a way that is not normal for you, and if you have experienced any of these symptoms, we ask that you would not come to campus.

- ✓ Feeling feverish or having a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ✓ Loss of sense of taste or smell
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Chills, shaking, or exaggerated shivering
- ✓ Sore Throat
- ✓ Significant muscle pain or ache
- ✓ Diarrhea, vomiting, stomach ache

Members of our community who have begun experiencing any of the above symptoms should not come to campus. If they have been on campus while experiencing symptoms, they should contact the Pastor or Office Manager at 281-353-5935. All medical information will remain confidential.

In the case of a staff member or child who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the person is assumed to have COVID-19 and may not return to the facility until they meet the following criteria:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared, **and**
- 24 hours with no fever and without using fever-reducing medicine, **and**
- Other COVID-19 symptoms you have are improving.

If the staff member or child has similar symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to the facility before completing the above self-isolation period, the person must obtain written documentation from a medical professional clearing them to return based on an alternative diagnosis.

A student or staff member who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period. These individuals cannot return to campus until the school director screens the individual to determine whether the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met.

**Procedure for when a person tests positive for Covid-19:**

- Whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, you should isolate in order to protect others.
- If you do not develop symptoms, you can be around others after 10 days have passed since your positive viral test for COVID-19.
- If you have symptoms, you can be around others after:
  - 10 days since symptoms first appeared, **and**
  - 24 hours with no fever and without using fever-reducing medicine, **and**
  - Other COVID-19 symptoms you have are improving.

**Procedure for when a person has had close contact with someone who has Covid-19:**

Close contact is defined as if you've been within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.

**I'm fully vaccinated and know I've been around someone with COVID-19. Should I get tested?**

If you are fully vaccinated, and do not have any symptoms of COVID-19, you do not need to quarantine at home. However, you should get tested 3–5 days after the exposure, even if you don't have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 10 days following exposure or until your test result is negative.

**I'm unvaccinated and know I've been around someone with COVID-19. What should I do?**

If you have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should:

- stay home for 10 days after your last contact;
- watch for symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath;
- if possible, stay away from people you live with, especially those at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.

The child or staff may return to campus

- after day 10 without testing if you are symptom free, **or**
- after day 7 after receiving a negative COVID test result (test must occur on day 5 or later).

**What about those who have had Covid-19 and then have close contact?**

Someone who tested positive for COVID-19 with a viral test within the previous 90 days and has subsequently recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms does not need to quarantine. However, close contacts with prior COVID-19 infection in the previous 90 days should:

- Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days after exposure.
- Monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and isolate immediately if symptoms develop.
- Consult with a healthcare professional for testing recommendations if new symptoms develop.

**Church Response to Lab-Confirmed**

NLC has established the following guidelines to respond should a confirmed case arise in our church and to respond to members and guests who become ill while at church.

- The Pastor will notify Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- The Church will notify people if it is determined they have been in close contact with a lab-confirmed Covid-19 diagnosis.

**Disruption of Services**

In regard to public health emergency closures, the NLC Council will evaluate our church impact as well as our community impact in determining NLC closures. NLC campus is shared by New Life Church, New Life Community Christian School, Casa de Oracion and Vida Nueva. Every decision will be made with the utmost care and consideration for the wellbeing of our members and guests.

**Giving and Ministry During Covid-19:**

Members and guests are encouraged to continue giving to the ministries of NLC even while the campus is closed or if they cannot worship in-person. Several options exist for giving tithes and offerings: giving online, sending checks by mail, or dropping a check off in person at the church office.

The NLC Council recognizes this is both an unusual and difficult time and will do everything in its power to pray for, encourage and support members and guests during this time. We will strive to meet the needs of people while also encouraging everyone to meet each other's needs. Together we are the body of Christ. Despite our limitations, we will continue to worship, fellowship, serve and reach out together.