



**MAKING GOD'S CHURCH A GREAT HOUSE AT LBC**  
*Solid in our Doctrine, Secure in our Direction, & Sold Out in our Devotion*  
Titus 2:1; Habakkuk 2:1-2 & 1 Corinthians 15:58

## **2020 Considerations for Operating Church During COVID-19 Disease**

**"MITIGATING MEASURES"  
Habakkuk 2:2b-3, KJV.**

1232 ANDERSON AVENUE | AUGUSTA, GEORGIA 30901 | CH. PHONE: (706) 724-3322 |  
WWW.LIBERTYBAPTISTAUGUSTA.COM | REV. D. A. DARDEN, JR., M.S.M., MTH. MDIV. | C: 706-373-0715 |  
EMAIL: LBCPS200110@GMAIL.COM; @LBCPASTORJR



## Table of Contents

<b>Statement and Commitment to our Considerations</b> .....	1
<b>Liberty Baptist Church COVID-19 Checklist for Members and Visitors</b> .....	2
<b>Liberty Baptist Church COVID-19 Mitigation Measures (Our Plan)</b> .....	2
<b>Disclaimer</b> .....	4
<b>References</b> .....	6

## **Statement and Commitment to our Considerations**

Returning to the physical church September 8, 2020, poses new challenges for Liberty Baptist Church (1232 Anderson Avenue, Augusta, Georgia, 30901), including implementing mitigation measures (e.g., social distancing, cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, use of both cloth coverings), addressing social and emotional needs of students, addressing potential learning loss, and preparing for the probability of COVID-19 cases. It is understood that members, visitors and guests, to include staff may contract symptoms consistent with COVID-19, however, the leadership of Liberty Baptist church is committed to putting appropriate guidance in place to protect all our members and their families which includes children, visitors and guests from the spread of COVID-19 and a response plan in place for if/when a member, visitor or guest tests positive for COVID-19. The guidance outlined in this handout was developed using the guidelines from the Center for Disease and Control (CDC), state and public health departments, and is strongly aligned to the reopening guidelines that have been provided by state and federal leaders for the reopening of institutions in 2020-2021. This guidance is intended to meet the needs of our members, visitors and guests, while reducing the risk of COVID-19 spread. This means that members, visitors and guests, should take actions to protect themselves and others where they live, work, learn, and/or play. It also means that personal prevention practices, such as handwashing, staying home when sick and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that must be adhered to by everyone to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread during Bible study fellowship sessions, Sunday school, worship services on Sunday's and all other activities and events related to corporate worship. Ultimately, these considerations will help Liberty Baptist church: (1) promote behaviors that reduce the spread of

COVID-19, (2) maintain healthy environments, (3) maintain healthy operations, and (4) prepare for when someone gets sick.

### **Liberty Baptist Church COVID-19 Checklist for Members and Visitors**

In partnership with the guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease and Control, the State and Georgia Department of Public Health, Liberty Baptist church has created these simple guidelines for a safe reopening that is realistic in any of our settings, while providing the best possible worship experience for our members, visitors and guests. To begin, we have put together this checklist for members, visitors and guests which serves as reminder and practice:

- 1) Be a leader in keeping yourself, your church, family and community healthy.
- 2) Check your family members each morning for signs of illness. If your family member has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, they should not go to church.
- 3) Make sure your family member does not have a sore throat or other signs of illness, like cough, diarrhea, severe headache, vomiting, or body aches.
- 4) Share what you learn about preventing disease with your family and friends, especially with younger children.
- 5) Model good practices such as sneezing or coughing into your elbow and washing your hands, especially for younger family members.
- 6) Don't stigmatize others or tease anyone about being sick; remember that the virus doesn't follow geographical boundaries, ethnicities, age or ability or gender.
- 7) Ask questions, educate yourself and get information from reliable sources.
- 8) Protect yourself and others.
- 9) Wash your hands frequently, always with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- 10) Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- 11) Wear a mask.
- 12) Remember to not touch your face.
- 13) Do not share cups, eating utensils, food, water bottles, writing instruments, bibles, hymnals, or drinks with others.

This guidance is intended to help protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of members, staff, visitors and guests, their families, and communities and prepare for the work of ministry and worship services once church is reopened September 8. It is critical that members, staff, visitors and guests, communicate and reinforce appropriate hygiene and social distancing practices in ways that are developmentally appropriate for members, staff, visitors and guests.

## **Liberty Baptist Church COVID-19 Mitigation Measures (Our Plan)**

Planning and Preparing are the most important actions Liberty Baptist church can take before reopening in-person services at our physical location at 1232 Anderson Avenue, Augusta, Georgia. That said, the following are part of Liberty Baptist church Mitigation Measures (*our Plan*) on how the church will handle “social distancing” while at church:

- Only one person will go out to the restroom at a time, unless it’s a parent/legal guardian and child.
- All people using chairs will be distanced as much as the sanctuary allows.
- As much as possible, unnecessary “clutter” has been removed to allow distancing in the annex.

When does the “10 days out” start?

- The 10 days starts at the beginning of symptoms – with the last 3 being no more symptoms.

Church Safety Measures

- Temperature checks.
- Close monitoring of symptoms and isolation of symptomatic individuals.
- Social distancing (6 feet when feasible).
- Increased hygiene signage and hand cleaning supplies.
- Teaching good hygiene techniques – especially proper hand washing routines.
- Enhanced sanitation routines.
- Face coverings (when appropriate and necessary).
- Non-essential visitors not permitted\*.

Procedure for Positive COVID-19 Case

- If a member, staff, visitor or guest of Liberty Baptist church, that has been in the building, is identified as COVID-19 positive or shows signs of the virus:
- They will be told to go home. If a child, parents will be contacted for pick up.
- Staff will be sent for testing.
- Office staff will prepare a list of potential exposures.
- Members, visitors and guests, as well as all exposures will be asked to self-isolate until test results come back.
- Stay home once it is confirmed that you are positive.
- Separate yourself from other people.
- Take care of yourself.
- Stay in touch with your doctor.
- Avoid public transportation.

## COVID-19 Symptoms

- Chills
- Body aches
- Dry cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Headache
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- Congestion
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea.

The guidance described in this document provides actions and considerations based on the best available evidence at this time. It is meant to supplement—not replace—any state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which institutions like church must comply. This guidance is Liberty Baptist church mitigating strategies to reduce or prevent the spread of COVID-19, which in turn will help our church to open and stay open safely.

### **Disclaimer**

On June 26, 2020, the Georgia General Assembly passed Senate Bill (SB) 359 to limit liability for COVID-19-related claims. The bill, titled “Georgia COVID-19 Pandemic Business Safety Act, was signed by Governor Brian Kemp, August 5, 2020, and protects covered entities and individuals from liability for injury or death related to COVID-19. Covered entities are defined specifically to include healthcare facilities and healthcare providers, as well as associations, companies, corporations, governmental entities, religious or educational organizations, and volunteer organizations, among others. SB 359 creates an assumption of the risk defense. This means that under Georgia law, there is no liability for an injury or death of an individual entering Liberty Baptist church, 1232 Anderson Avenue, Augusta, Georgia 30901, if such injury or death results from the inherent risks of contracting COVID-19. In short, you are

assuming this risk by entering these premises. The signage which is also covered in the bill, will be posted at the entrance of the building on Forest Street and Anderson Avenue.

## Reference

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/community-based.html>

<https://www.dph.georgia.gov>

<https://www.GaDOE.org/coronavirus>

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20192020/SB/359>

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/georgia-legislature-passes-bill-to-limit-liability-covid-19-related-claims>