



January 23, 2022

**NEW LIFE GLENSIDE**

## **Updated in-person policies as of January 23, 2022**

*→ As an act of love, please verify your health before attending in-person services.*

As we move through January 2022, the Covid-19 situation has taken a new turn with a highly transmissible variant named Omicron. Although far less severe, we still need to address the quick spread of Omicron with appropriate caution.

The risks and concerns associated with Covid-19 continue to be greatly varied, and particularly dependent upon one's age and health. We certainly want to give careful consideration to those who are older or with underlying health conditions that render Covid-19 a significant health concern. Meanwhile, it is true that others carry only the slightest health risk. We recognize these medical facts, as well as how they produce understandably varied perspectives on what Covid-19 measures are desirable in a worship service and elsewhere. Furthermore, there are varied personal values and convictions that produce differing perspectives as well.

Because of this diversity, and the presence of Omicron, we currently deem it best to have differing masking requirements for our various worship services and ministry opportunities.

Much of this was shaped in response to hearing your voices through our congregational survey. In all these things we seek to love and understand one another, and to promote the worship of God. To Him be all glory!

*→ If you're joining us online, please use [our livestream page here](#). Please note that you may need to refresh the webpage once the stream begins closer to 10:45.*



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**ONE:** Starting Sunday, January 23, 2022, we will have two worship services with the following attendance requirements:

1. 9:00am: For the first service, and for our KidsLife and Youth programs, **we require everyone to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth.**

*Note: this 9:00 masking requirement does not include AdultEd in the library.*

2. 10:45am: For the second worship service, masking is optional.

We encourage you to consider mask effectiveness. The current guidance says that surgical masks are better than cloth, and N95, KN95, or KN94 masks are even better. We will have a supply of a couple of different mask types available at the Welcome Desk (as long as supply lasts).

**TWO:** Please follow these guidelines for attending any in-person New Life Glenside event:

1. If you are ill: According to updated health guidelines, we ask everyone to **NOT ATTEND** any worship service or in-person event if you are ill with a cold, flu, fever, or symptoms of Covid-19 that are current and active.
2. If you have tested positive for Covid-19: We also ask that you adhere to these guidelines for the following and **NOT ATTEND** any worship service or in-person event: ([per CDC Guidelines](#)):
  - If you have **tested positive** for Covid-19 **within the last 5 days** (starting on the day you received your positive test), please isolate from others, regardless of your vaccination status. After 5 days if you have no symptoms, you can leave your house and remain masked for another 5 days.
  - If you have **tested positive** for Covid-19 **more than 5 days ago** but are still symptomatic (especially if you still have a fever), please isolate from others until your symptoms resolve. Then continue to wear a mask around others for 5 days.



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3. **If you have been exposed to someone with Covid-19:** We ask you to adhere to the most recent [CDC guidelines](#), which have recently changed.
4. We also encourage those who are 65+ and also immunocompromised to consider staying at home during this high transmissibility period and attend church via our livestream option at 10:45am.

**THREE:** New Life is in a building renovation phase, so our worship space is significantly smaller in the Fellowship Hall. Our outside air exchange in this room is very good, but unfortunately, we cannot offer spacing for physical distancing. If you are concerned about proximity, at 10:45am ONLY (second service), we have an overflow room in the library that has a livestream of the worship service. There may be more space there to spread out.

**FOUR:** We ask that you still check in at the Welcome Desk before going into the service or Sunday school classes. While this is something we implemented for potential contact tracing, we are continuing to use this as a welcome center. Please try to arrive 10-15 minutes before the service, as checking everyone in takes time.

**FIVE:** For further information on the procedures described above, please see the guidelines found in the links below from the Montgomery County Department of Health and the CDC:

[Montgomery County Department of Public Health](#)

[CDC Guidelines](#)

**NOTE: Questions about any specific health issues should be directed to your healthcare provider.**