

**Clonmel Baptist Church**  
**Covid 19 Response Plan Sept.2020**

The COVID-19 response plan is a living document and will be updated in line with the public health advice as appropriate for religious gatherings

**1. Planning and Preparing for Return to Church Worship**

The Elders of Clonmel Baptist Church aim to facilitate the resumption of corporate worship and teaching. The return to worship must be done safely and in strict adherence to the advice and instructions of public health authorities and the Government.

Details for the reopening of the church facility and the applicable controls are outlined in this document.

***a. Church Building i.e. use of SIPTU Hall Anglesea Street, Clonmel***

Before re-opening the Elders will undertake a Risk Assessment analysis.

***b. Signage***

Clonmel Baptist Church will display signage outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to support good hand and respiratory hygiene.

**2. Entry and Exit**

All attendees will enter through the main door of the building and maintain social distancing of 2 meters.

Attendees will exit through the fire door at the top of the church.

Worship service will commence at 11 a.m. and conclude at 12 noon.

A Lead Church Representative will greet the attendees at the door.

Attendees will be asked to complete a contact tracing log and Covid 19 Questionnaire.

Individual pens will be used and disinfected before reuse.

A sanitizing station will be provided at the entrance and exit of the building.

Attendees will be escorted to their seats.

Family members will be seated together and individuals will observe a distance of 2m from other attendees.

**3. Hymn Books and Bibles**

Communal hymn books or Bibles will not be used.

**4. Changes to Classroom and Church Layout**

The children and their Sunday school teachers will work in Class Bubbles. A Class Bubble is a grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible. The Class Bubbles will be

the Junior Sunday School and Senior Sunday School. The aim of the system within the church is that class groupings mix only with their own class bubble from arrival at Sunday school in the morning until the worship service has ended.

The children will be spaced at a meter apart and teacher will maintain a distance of 2m from the children. Sharing personal requisites (pencils/erasers/sharpeners/art materials) will not be permitted, each child is required to have their own requisites.

## **5. Hymn singing**

There will not be hymn singing at the worship service.

## **6.Refreshments**

Food and drink will not be shared between attendees.

## **7. Creche**

One parent will care for their own child/children in the creche room. Creche will be used by babies, toddlers and children with additional needs.

Just two parents from different families will be in the creche at the same time.

If creche is full parents can supervise children outside /in car and listen to sermon on Zoom on phone.

## **8. Toilets**

One person will use the bathroom at a time. A supervisor will supervise the safe use of the toilet and will sanitise after use.

## **9. General advice to prevent the spread of the virus**

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in church is to minimise the risk of introduction of the disease into the church setting in the first place.

This can be achieved through the following measures:

- Promote awareness of COVID-19 and its symptoms amongst church members .
- Advise members who have symptoms of COVID-19 or who have contact with a household member with symptoms or other acute infectious diseases not to attend worship, to phone their GP and follow the HSE guidance on self-isolation.

- Advise members who have been identified by the HSE as contact of a person with COVID-19 not to attend worship and to follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement.
- Ensure that members know what to do if they develop symptoms at church.
  - Ensure members be aware of, and adhere to, good hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices
  - Ensure members should keep informed of the updated advice of the public health authorities and comply with same

## **10. IT equipment**

Any church member who uses the laptop should clean it down after use with the wipes provided.

## **11. The Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Appropriate PPE will be available for dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases, intimate care needs and for first aid.

### **a. Masks**

Guidelines state that face coverings are not suitable for children under the age of 13 but adults will wear masks at the worship service.

### **b. Gloves**

Members do not need to wear disposable gloves unless they are looking after a child's intimate care needs, administering First Aid or cleaning.

## **12. Hygiene and Cleaning**

- Additional cleaning will be carried out on frequently touched surfaces – door handles, hand rails, chairs/arm rests, communal eating areas, sink and toilet facilities. These areas will be cleaned but also disinfected.

## **15. Illness and Dealing with a Suspected Case of COVID-19**

Where there is a suspected case of COVID-19 in church. the church will follow these guidelines:

- Bring the person to the designated isolation area.
- Facilitate the person remaining in isolation if they cannot go home immediately.
- Supporting the making of arrangements for transport home or if they are too unwell to go home to contact 999 or 112 to advise it is a COVID-19 suspected case.
- Carrying out an assessment of the incident to determine follow up actions.

- Arrangements for the appropriate cleaning of the isolation and work areas. Where there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 amongst members, members need to maintain both members confidentiality at all times and must follow the instructions of HSE Public Health
- All siblings of a suspected case of Covid-19 will also be asked to isolate