



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ENSLEY CAP (COVID-19 ACTION PLAN)

*Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known...I am going to bring it recovery and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.*

Jeremiah 33:3,6 (NRSV)

This FBCE COVID-19 Action Plan (CAP) is current as of March 16, 2020. The FBCE CAP has been developed and approved by the Executive Ministry and reviewed with the church leadership body (to include the Deacon and Trustee Ministries). Careful thought and consideration of local, state and CDC guidance and consultation with medical professionals have been involved in this process. To support the health and well-being of FBCE members, families and friends we are asking everyone to follow the guidance contained herein.

- Pray. We are a community of believers, and therefore, this should always be our immediate response.
- We encourage members to discontinue 'fist-bumping' or giving 'elbow-love' as the new gesture of love and reception. Please refrain from physical contact and respect the recommendation for social distancing. Medical authorities recommend maintaining 6 feet of separation between people.
- Establish sanitation stations throughout the church for worshippers to use.
- We encourage all members and visitors who feel ill for any reason to **stay home until illness subsides.**
- Upgrade cleaning tools and supplies to include commercial sanitizing equipment, and cleaning only with anti-bacterial/anti-virus type solutions.
- Make a limited supply of face masks available ONLY for those who may be sick or have a consistent cough.
- Keep handwashing soap amply supplied in all restrooms.
- We urge all members and visitors to thoroughly wash their hands or use an alcohol-based sanitizer. Frequent hand washing is probably the most effective way to prevent contamination. DO NOT put your hands in your eyes to scratch them, or in your mouth or on your food WITHOUT handwashing first.
- We urge all members to sanitize surfaces at home and in the public where possible. Research shows that the coronavirus CAN LIVE on surfaces for up to 5 DAYS! Lysol and sanitation wipes are effective ONLY IF YOU USE AS DIRECTED Just spraying and wiping DOES NOT KILL THE VIRUS! FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS. Also, if supplies are out, a combination bleach (no matter what brand) and water solution is 99.9% effective in killing the virus as well. Bleach cleaning solutions should be 9 parts water to 1 part bleach. Remember "plain ole soap and water still work!
- BE ARMED with FACTS, not FEAR! Young adults, teens, & children are the least impacted by this virus (though they still need to be careful not to contract it and further its spread to others). As much as 80% of those who do contract it will experience mild to flu like symptoms. A small

percentage will contract the virus and never even know they had it! However, for those who are 65+, those with respiratory problems, and those with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, heart problems and such, this virus could prove fatal! And for our fellow believers who fall into this category, it is vital for you to stay out of large crowds, be overly cautious, AND for the rest of us with stronger immune systems to protect THEM by not putting ourselves in a position where we can contract this virus and pass it to them.

- Sanitize all classrooms, nursery rooms, restrooms, and other meeting spaces regularly.
- **We encourage all members who are currently not using Givelify to register so they can ensure their tithes, offerings, and Project 2020 Offering are promptly received. For those not using Givelify, please mail your tithes, offerings, and Project 2020 Offering to P.O. Box 8329 Birmingham, AL 35218.**
- We encourage all members to join the official First Baptist Church of Ensley Facebook page as an additional medium of communication, and for access to live streaming privileges.
- Please Check our website daily, [www.fbcensley.com](http://www.fbcensley.com) for more information as well. We will update it as necessary because of the fast pace environment we are now in.
- Encourage social distancing (stay 6ft away from others when out in the public (when & where possible)).
- Go to 1-HOUR worship service format BEGINNING 1st SUNDAY IN APRIL.
- Communion will be distributed before members enter the sanctuary and the giving period will occur as members leave the sanctuary.
- Be flexible
- Pray

We pray that God heals our land according to II Chronicles 7:14. However, due to the fact that we are subject to His sovereign will and timing, the Executive Ministry of First Baptist Church of Ensley has devised a multi-level response plan to the probable likelihood that this virus will resist our efforts to contain it, as it has already globally demonstrated. This plan is enacted and live because one of following three (3) things have happened:

1. The President of the United States declaring a state of emergency due to the Coronavirus.
2. Local officials in the Birmingham and Jefferson County have closed schools.
3. The CDC recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the U.S.

### **Level 1 Action Plan (as of March 16, we are here; applicable precautionary steps still apply)**

- ALL regularly scheduled meetings during the week will be canceled. NO MEETINGS of ANY KIND for ANY REASON will be permitted, with exception given to the Pastor and/or the executive staff at their discretion.
- Ministry leaders are encouraged to utilize freeconferencecall.com and establish a free conference line to meet via phone with ministry volunteers.
- ALL ministry functions in which there is service to the community will be discontinued indefinitely.
- ALL church-wide gatherings and/or extra-curricular church activities will be postponed or canceled.
- Home communion will be discontinued indefinitely.
- Visitations will no longer be conducted in person if at all possible but will rather be conducted via phone call.
- Sunday Services (11AM) will immediately go to a 1-hour worship format until further notice.

- Congregants are encouraged to feel safe at worship! As long as we all respect this virus, wash our hands, provide more social distancing than we normally provide, take heed to all precautions with Christian integrity, we can all worship God in peace and with assurance.
- Be flexible; things can change quickly, as we receive new guidance from medical professionals and our government leaders.
- Pray

In the event someone among this body of worshippers become sick with the coronavirus or if a legal authority sets a limits of less than 50 people, the Executive Ministry will advance our church response to the next level.

**Level 2 Action Plan (every applicable prohibition in level 1 applies)**

- Contact CDC and other mandated local personnel for directions & guidance.
- Protect the name(s) and identities of those directly impacted from all sources except the CDC and other related sources.
- Notify all members of the case & advise those who attended the service or functions the infected person attended to observe the 14-day self-quarantine.
- Contact local company for sanitation services for the church.
- No gatherings at the church unless authorized.
- Sunday Service will be canceled; please join the official church FB page at 11am for a live streaming word from our Pastor!
- The telephone voice recording, church website, official Facebook page, Twitter account, GroupMe, emails, & phone calls will be used to communicate to the church body when we are no longer at a level 2 response.
- Any information will be given/reported by the Executive Ministry or their designee.
- Pray