

Congregational Health and Wellness Policy Brandts Church of the Brethren

Brandts Church recognizes that life and health are gifts from God. We also recognize that it is impossible to provide a completely sterile environment and that in spite of all efforts to eliminate potential contaminants there will always be a risk of contracting some form of illness in all public venues. Desiring to be good stewards of the life and health which God provides, to make reasonable efforts to minimize risk, and to promote good practices of health and hygiene within the congregation during its activities, the following policies are hereby adopted.

General Responsibilities of Participants

Persons who are experiencing symptoms of known infectious disease (e.g. cold or flu symptoms) should exercise good care for themselves and others and remain at home until they have recovered.

Persons who know that they have been exposed to infectious disease (e.g. cold or flu) but are not symptomatic should remain at home until the probable incubation period has passed and they show no symptoms of illness.

Persons who cough or sneeze should cover their cough or sneeze and wash their hands afterward as soon as possible.

Children should be kept home under the following conditions:

Fever: Parents are requested not to bring their child to church when fever is present. A temperature greater than 100 degrees orally, and auxiliary, is considered a fever.

Upper-Respiratory Infection(s): Children with infections that have not been on anti-biotics for at least 24 hours may not attend class. Children who have clear nose drainage or discharge may attend class. Children with clear mucous coughs may come to church. Coughs that have been diagnosed as infectious (i.e. acute bronchitis, pneumonia, RSV, etc.) or are accompanied by fever (see above definition of fever) may not attend class unless the child has been on anti-biotics for at least 24 hours.

Diarrhea: Children who demonstrate deviations from normal bowel movement patterns may not attend class.

Vomiting: Any child who has vomited two or more times in the last 24 hours may not be brought to church. Exception: Infants who have normal regurgitation of feedings.

Skin Rashes: If your child has a generalized rash, diagnosis should be made by a physician. Due to the contagious nature of generalized body rashes, children with generalized body rashes may not attend class. Exception: Localized rashes such as prickly heat, eczema, diaper rash, etc.

Opened-Skin Areas: Any opened-skin areas with or without drainage should be covered with a bandage.

Eye Drainage: A physician should evaluate any eye drainage. When any eye drainage is diagnosed as infectious, the child may not attend class.

General Responsibilities of the Church

Signs which encourage good hand washing practices will be posted in all restrooms and in the kitchen.

Notices encouraging people to cover their coughs and sneezes will be posted in restrooms and classrooms.

The church facilities will receive a general cleaning on a weekly basis. This includes the removal of wastepaper from all areas, and cleaning restrooms, classrooms, sanctuary, and the fellowship hall with commercial cleaning and disinfecting products.

Surfaces, including door handles and knobs, light switches, hand rails, tables and other similar touchable areas will be cleaned each week with commercial cleaning and disinfecting products.

Sunday school, Nursery, and King's Kids staff will clean toys after class concludes using commercial cleaning and disinfecting products.

I have read the Congregational Health and Wellness policy and agree to abide by it. I recognize the Church is making good faith efforts to minimize the risk of illness, and I agree to hold harmless the Church, its pastors, employees, agents, and volunteer workers from any responsibility should I or my child(ren) come in contact with any illness as a result of participation in events and activities sponsored by the Church.

Signature

Date