

IDC COVID Guidelines for Growth Groups

(update 9/10/2020)

As COVID-19 restrictions and recommendations have continued to develop in NC, below are some guidelines the IDC elders ask each group to follow as they try to meet. Each GG situation will be slightly different, so if you have specific questions please reach out to Tyler, Pastor Shane, or the elder over your group.

- **Meeting frequency:** Groups should try to meet weekly (excluding the weeks of IDC members meetings) from September-November. Groups will not meet regularly from Thanksgiving through New Years, but should try to meet occasionally during that time.
- **Meeting location:** We recommend/prefer groups meet outside (weather permitting). However, groups may meet inside if the group prefers to do so AND the host is comfortable with it.
 - **If meeting outdoors:** Maintain social distancing (6') as much as possible and wear a mask¹ when 6' distancing isn't possible. Masks are therefore *optional* except when you will be closer than 6', in which case they should be worn. (This is pretty much the same rules as for outdoor services at the church bldg.)
 - **If meeting indoors:** Maintain social distancing (6') as much as possible and wear a mask¹ when 6' distancing isn't possible. Because most indoor settings will make it impossible to consistently keep 6' distancing, masks should be considered *required* indoors in most cases.
- **Childcare:** Groups may elect to provide childcare and may bring in childcare workers from outside the group (as was the case pre-COVID). Childcare workers and parents must agree on the rules stated above (e.g. masks, distancing, etc.). If groups choose to have an outside childcare worker, they can request a stipend from the church (\$200 for the fall semester; groups that need more than 1 worker may request an additional stipend). Stipend requests can be sent to Brett Hart (brett@idcraleigh.com) and Matt Sigmon (matt@idcraleigh.com).
- **Food:** If a group chooses to eat together (which is encouraged!), individuals may bring their own food OR the group can have one person serve food to everyone. No self-serve cafeteria-line style food.

Options for High-Risk or Cautious Individuals — Some group members may be unable or uncomfortable with meeting in person (e.g., [vulnerable populations](#)). In these cases, members should work with the GGL and the elder over the group to ensure meaningful participation with the group as much as possible. In many cases, these individuals may consider joining a temporary **Online Growth Group**. If you are interested in joining a temporary Online Growth Group, please email growthgroups@idcraleigh.com.

¹ In light of [Governor Cooper's executive order for Phase 2.5](#), we ask that everyone aged 5 and up comply with mask guidelines.