**Let’s start with some basic definitions:**

1. **Covid Positive Person**: one who has Covid like symptoms (helpful if confirmed by a positive Covid-19 test).

A Covid Positive Person must quarantine for 14 days. (This is a general rule so the person’s doctor will have the best plan for each individual situation.)

1. **Direct Contact**: **CDC Update (November 6, 2020) as to what constitutes direct contact:** “time period of 15 minutes or more, which is used to define “prolonged” close contact, refers to the cumulative amount of time a person is exposed on one or more individuals with (Covid-19) infection during a 24-hour period.”

A person who has a “direct contact” with a Covid Positive Person should quarantine for 14 days. (This is a general rule so the person’s doctor will have the best plan for each individual situation.)

1. **Contact**: one who has prolonged exposure to a “direct contact”.

A contact does not need to quarantine unless they or the “direct contact” get symptoms and/or a positive Covid-19 test.

**Protocols for when to close or not close due to a Covid-19 outbreak:**

When a Covid Positive Person attends a church service or function and has “direct contact” with others, the church should ***consider*** closing for 14 days. Here are the Protocols for making the right decision.

1. If your church has **multiple cases** of Covid-19 among those who attended a church service or function, you should immediately shut down church services and functions for 14 days.

1. If someone who attended a church service or function tests positive for Covid-19 and had symptoms within **2 days** of attending, those who had “direct contact” with that person should be informed to quarantine for 14 days and to get a Covid-19 test. Most people who attend a church service or function would only be in “direct contact” with those they sat with, so only those who sat with that person would need to quarantine. The church does not need to shut down.

1. If a Covid Positive Person had “direct contact” with multiple people other than those they sat with, you should shut down church services and functions for 14 days - **Unless** you have multiple services. Then you only need to shut down the specific service or function that was attended by the Covid Positive Person – you do not need to shut down the other service(s) or functions.

1. If a person tests positive for Covid-19 and is on the worship team or another ministry team of the church, the whole team should not return to church until they quarantine for 14 days. If they have had “direct contact” with others in the church, those contacts should also be instructed to not return to church until they quarantine for 14 days.

1. If any of these situations happen or if in doubt, call me to discuss your case!