

Children's Ministry Regathering Plan

In order to meet the needs of children's education safely and with consideration for parents and teachers, we provide the following Sunday School Regathering Plan.

Format update: Fall 2020

We currently offer two children's classes (preschool - 2nd and 3rd - 6th). We will increase the number of classes as needed. We will continue to keep safety protocols in place, but will be open to make changes as necessary to ease certain practices. We will look to resume offering nursery when feasible during this phase.

Safety Protocols

As we regather, we want to consider the guidance of the State of PA and the CDC recommendations¹ for safety practices. We look to the [CDC Interim Guidance for Faith Communities](#) for direction, which states: "If a nursery or childcare will be provided during services, refer to CDC's ([Guidance for Childcare programs](#)) and *adapt as needed for your setting.*" There are six considerations the [Guidance for Childcare Programs](#) recommends churches address, which are listed below. The procedures we are looking to adapt for our children's classes are taken from this document and listed under the six headings. We will re evaluate and modify these policies as needed and keep the congregation up to date with any changes.

1. Implement social distancing strategies

- Classes are optional, so parents can elect to keep children in worship service.
- Classes will gather outside whenever possible, weather permitting in the fenced playground area.
- Seating in classes will be spaced out, whether around a table or in a large room.
- We encourage children to keep distanced/respect personal space.
- We will not offer snacks during this time

2. Intensified cleaning and disinfection efforts

- Tables where children meet are sanitized by Y before use. Teachers will perform cleaning of areas after use where necessary.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available for use during class.
- Children's books and paper-based material are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need to be disinfected.

3. Modified drop off and pick up procedures

- Children's Church:
 - Children will join the worship service for the first part of and may attend Children's Church when dismissed. Teachers will help escort children to Children's Church.
 - Parents will need to pick up children after the worship service has ended.

¹ See also :[Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools](#) & [Considerations for Youth and Summer Camps](#). These documents are insightful, but do not directly relate to our programs.

4. Volunteers and families should assess health before coming to church

- Volunteers who are sick or show symptoms will stay home. On call volunteers should be available in case of cancellation
- Parents should assess family health before coming to church. If anyone in household has a fever, any coronavirus symptoms, or an unprotected exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case, they should not attend any Church Gathering for two weeks or bring kids to Sunday School

5. Maintain and adequate ratio of staff to children to ensure safety

- We will schedule four teachers each week to oversee Children's Church.

6. Staff and older children should wear face coverings within the facility. Small children do not need to wear face coverings.

- When indoors, in consideration of the CDC Recommendations and the State of PA Guidelines, all those in attendance (except small children and those unable due to health or conscience) are asked to wear a face covering, especially when appropriate physical distancing is difficult to maintain. Teachers who are not able to wear a face covering should notify their ministry leader (Jan Null or Ryan Krodel) to make accommodations.
- When outdoors, masks are not necessary so long as social distancing is maintained.
- We will reevaluate face covering policies in keeping with PA State Guidelines.