

# Children's Health & Safety Protocols

*Family Ministry | Christ Church Plano | Updated September 18, 2020*

Dear Parents,

The health and safety of your child is very important to us. We have put the following measures in place as we open our on-campus Sunday School program. We request that you review these protocols carefully before registering your child to attend Sunday School. **Participation in these measures is required in order to attend at this time.**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have. We are excited to see your child at church and are grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in their faith formation.

In His Service,

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## **REGISTRATION**

Families will register children for Sunday School. This one time registration confirms that your child is returning to the program and serves as your consent to the Health & Safety Protocols outlined in this document. We encourage you to share "what to expect" with your child.

## **ATTENDANCE**

In addition to our current ministry policies requiring children attending church activities to be symptom and fever free, temperature screening will take place at the door for anyone entering the building. Children should not attend Sunday School if they have they have experienced fever or flu-like symptoms in the past 24 hours. Please be mindful of physical distancing; floor markings will be provided. Children will pick up nametags in classrooms for those who have registered, including parent pick up tags.

## **SUNDAY MORNING CHECK IN**

All registered children will receive name tags in their classrooms. A parent will need to walk children to class in order to receive security tags for pick up. If desired, fourth and fifth grade children with a signed waiver on file are allowed to go to class unaccompanied as this tag is not used for dismissal into the Sanctuary.

## **KEEPING A SAFE DISTANCE: COMMON AREAS**

You will notice that the soft seating areas, storytime rugs, shared books and games have been removed for this time from common areas and classrooms.

We ask that families limit non-essential persons from entering the Children's Ministry side of the Archgate building. This will help keep the lobby and hallway areas free from congestion.

We will be limiting elevator usage to those who are in need and ask that only one family use the elevator at a time. Lobby and classroom doors will be open to eliminate the need for touching handles.

## **KEEPING A SAFE DISTANCE: CLASSROOMS**

While young children are not able to maintain physical distance from one another, measures are being taken in the classrooms to provide spacing as much as possible. Additional tables have been placed in the classrooms to provide space between children. Activities requiring contact with each other and sharing supplies will be avoided. Staff and teachers will encourage children to distance as they are able. Older children will be able to distance more easily and will also be encouraged to do so.

- After washing hands, children will chose their seat for that day
- Younger children may be using hula hoops, small rugs and other items to delineate space
- Number of students per classroom and worship area will be limited to allow for spacing
- Limit number of students to 2 for bathroom breaks
- Children will have a place to store personal items while in class.
- Water fountains in classrooms and hallways will be turned off. Drinks will be provided by teachers using disposable cone cups. Cups will be thrown away immediately, no saving for later. Water cups may not be taken to tables. Please do not send a water bottle with your child.
- Any art supplies will be provided for individual use. Items will not be shared.

## **FACE COVERINGS**

Face coverings are worn over both nose and mouth. Masks will be worn in all buildings on campus, for all persons Kindergarten and up.

## **HANDWASHING**

- Anyone entering a classroom must first wash hands with soap at the sink provided.
- There will be a Bubble Break halfway through classtime for children and teachers to wash hands with soap. Younger classes will have an accompanying song.
- Additional opportunities for hand washing: returning from outdoor play, in preparation for snack (when food consumption resumes), if children have accidentally shared supplies or toys, etc.
- Also, children and volunteers will wash hands upon exiting classrooms.
- For ease of use in the lobby, hand sanitizer will be provided as a hand washing alternative for parents going to services.

## **WORSHIP**

Children will participate in worship in smaller groups while in the Children's Ministry area. Preschool and pre-k children will worship separately from Elementary grades. The Elementary students will also be divided into smaller groups and will wear masks. Older elementary grades will still join their parents in the Sanctuary at the Peace for Eucharist as a family.

## **OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

Taking lessons and activities outdoors is a healthy alternative to the classroom and encouraged as weather permits. All persons should maintain physical distancing of 6 feet as able. If distancing is possible, masks may be removed by children and will be placed into individually labeled Ziploc baggies until it is time to return to the building. For outdoor play, we will plan activities that refrain from causing close contact and also from multiple touch surfaces. Playgrounds are closed at this time.

## **SYMPTOMATIC CHILD**

Steps to be taken for a child feeling unwell during Sunday School:

- The child will be removed from any area with other children
- We will contact the parents to retrieve the child and we will bring siblings to parents as well to minimize re-entry to building. Parents will be given a copy of procedures covering reporting, return to church, etc.
- Simultaneously, the other children will be moved to a fresh classroom
- We will disinfect the classroom and areas where symptomatic child had access

## **COVID-19 POSITIVE**

Response to lab confirmed case of Covid-19

- If an individual in a household tests positive for Covid-19 (or comes in close contact with a person who tests positive for Covid-19) and if they have been on campus or at a church event within the time of exposure, please immediately report the positive case to Christ Church Family Ministry staff. The family's privacy will be respected and discretion will be used.
- Areas where affected persons have accessed will be closed off and disinfected.
- Staff, teachers and families who experienced 15 minutes of contact with anyone from that household will be notified and should quarantine for 14 days.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

The building will be cleaned and disinfected after each service on Sunday mornings as well as during the week.

We will not allow food or drinks or be serving food at this time. Please be sure your child has breakfast before coming to church.

## **EMERGENCY**

In the case of emergency, there will be no physical distancing. The safety and needs of the immediate issue (fire, tornado, etc.) will take priority and Children's Ministry emergency steps will be followed.

Thank you for helping make our ministry the safest environment possible for your child!