



Christian Education, Spiritual Formation, and Small Groups Guidelines

Nursery

Considerations/Questions: How will you ensure sanitation and disinfection in regards to communal spaces, toys, diaper changing, etc? Do you have enough cleaning supplies and sanitizer? What will be your check-in/out procedure? How will you keep kids socially distanced, Are your staff/volunteers healthy? Is your safe sanctuaries wellness policy up to date, communicated, and posted in numerous places? How many people can your space hold so that everyone remains 6 feet apart? Will you have thermometers on hand and check temperatures before entering? How will you ensure health, safety, and social distancing during drop off and pick up? Staff and volunteers wear masks; Masks required for ages 2 and up. What is your strategy to sanitize and disinfect in real time? Do you have enough cleaning supplies?

Absolute Guidelines: If nursery is utilized, comply with CDC guidelines for childcare facilities.*

Communications: How will you keep parents, staff, and volunteers apprised of all that has been done to ensure safety and health? Communicate Wellness policy to all stakeholders (staff, volunteers, Have proper signage for moving people from point A to point B (e.g. taped lines and arrows on the floors like in a grocery store), make sure volunteers and staff understand any changes you make and communicate the changes in advance to parents and caregivers

Best Practices: No nursery.

Resources: (See resource page below) and [Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open*](#)

Adult Sunday School/Bible Study

Considerations/Questions: What are the ages of the group (keeping in mind that individuals 60+ years old are considered vulnerable)? Where will you meet and what is the square footage of the room in order to calculate proper social distancing? Will you have a supply of extra masks for people who forget? Do you have disposable, individual curriculum/handouts? What is the procedure for moving people from point A to point B? How will you ensure proper sanitation and disinfection?

Absolute Guidelines: Clean and disinfect before use and after

Communications: Communicate expectations in advance

Best Practices: Offer opportunities to meet in person or online.

Resources: (Resources specific to adult Sunday School have been difficult to find)

Children's Ministry

Considerations/Questions: Have you sanitized and disinfected everything? What is your strategy to sanitize and disinfect in real time? What is the square-footage of the room(s) you use and how many children can be there with proper social distancing? How will you keep proper social distance with children? What about wearing masks? Do you have disposable curriculum and supplies for each child? Are your volunteers comfortable returning or will you need to recruit new volunteers? Do you have enough volunteers? What if you do not have enough volunteers? Should there be training for teachers and helpers on new sanitation and management protocols? How will you handle check-in/out procedures? What will your toileting procedure be? Is your wellness policy up to date? Should there be temperature checks?

Kids in Worship: Do you have a Prayer-Ground and what is your strategy for real-time sanitization and disinfection? If you have worship bags, have the bags and the items be disposable. Consider taking out "high-touch" items from the pews (hymnals, Bibles, pencils, envelopes,) Children should remain in the pews with their families for the children's sermon.

Absolute Guidelines: Masks, social distancing, real-time cleaning,

Communications: Communicate with families, volunteers, and key church leaders to let them know what to expect the first Sunday they return. Proper signage for drop off and pick up (consider tape on floor like at the grocery store and staggered drop off/pick up times), communicate and post your wellness policy, what you have cleaned and your strategy for proper disinfecting between gatherings.

Best Practice: Kids remain in worship with their families. Continue online faith formation. A clear protocol and written policy for protecting their children will go a long way to ease parents' concerns. Children return to meeting in person during phase *Illinois Restored*

Resources: (See resources page below)

Youth Ministry

Considerations/Questions: Have you sanitized and disinfected everything? What is your strategy to sanitize and disinfect in real time? What is the square-footage of the room(s) you use and how many youth can be there with proper social distancing? How will you keep proper social distance with youth? What about wearing masks? Do you have disposable curriculum and supplies for each youth? Are your volunteers comfortable returning or will you need to recruit new volunteers? Do you have enough volunteers? What if you do not have enough volunteers? Should there be training for teachers and helpers on new sanitation and management protocols? How will you handle check-in/out procedures? What is your policy for restroom usage? Is your wellness policy up to date? Should there be temperature checks? Will you do local missions instead? Will 2020 graduates be invited to return for a mission trip in 2021 if it's safe and legal to do so? How will you recognize end of the year milestones? If you want to meet outdoors, do you have outdoor space large enough to help youth stay physically distant?

Absolute Guidelines: No games that require multiple people touching playground equipment and/or toys (basketballs, volleyballs, etc), Masks,

Communications: Communicate cancelation of trips early and clearly.

Best Practices: Cancel out of state mission trips. Continue online meetings and games.

Resources: See below

VBS

Considerations/Questions: Are you holding VBS or delaying it for later? What about using VBS as a big back-to-school event. Some churches are doing VBS over five weeks, one day/week, some will use their resources in the fall, and some are creating an online VBS event.

Absolute Guidelines: In-person VBS must meet social distancing and cleaning procedures.

Communications: Once you have made a decision to cancel and/or how to proceed, communicate clearly and directly. Communicate the information more than once. Put the details all in one place. If VBS is a big event in your community, send a dedicated email or physical letter, acknowledging the emotional component. If applicable, communicate whether or not you will provide refunds and why and where the money goes. Other considerations for cancellation letter include *Who made this decision and how was it made? Why did you cancel instead of postponing? Will you offer this event online? Do I have to re-register for the online event? How much does the online event cost? How will I access this online event?*

Are scholarships available? Can non-church members participate?

Best Practices: Recommend against offering in-person VBS at this time. See *Considerations* above and online resources for alternate ideas.

Resources: [Canceling Summer Programs: Resource Round Up](#)
[Learn More](#)

Resources:

Reopening:

[May 5 Restore Illinois Guidelines](#)

[Resuming In-Person Gatherings](#)

[Badger Bounce Back Plan](#)

[Questions Your Church Must Answer Before Welcoming People Back](#)

[Four Things you Need to Begin Planning for Reopening](#)

[Considerations before Reopening](#)

Children:

[Considerations for Reopening Children's Ministry](#)

[Tips for Online Worship with Children](#)

[6 Considerations for Reopening your Kids Ministry](#)

[Ten Steps For Reopening Children's Ministry](#)

[21 steps \(and 17 questions\) to prepare your children's ministry after COVID-19](#)

[Preparing your children's ministry for post-COVID-19](#)

VBS:

[Canceling Summer Programs: When Camps, Trips, and VBS Cannot Go On](#)

Wellness policy examples:

[Children's Wellness Policy at LifePoint Church in Greenville, SC](#)

[Wellness Policy](#)

Youth:

[Just for Fun: Online Youth Group Squares – Christine V Hides](#)

[Best of Online Youth Group Ideas \(so far\)](#)

[Canceling Summer Programs: When Camps, Trips, and VBS Cannot Go On](#)

[GooseChase: The Original Scavenger Hunt App](#)

[What About Summer: Youth Worker Collective Podcast \(Episode 54\)](#)

[13 Questions to Consider before Restarting Youth Ministry Post-Quarantine](#)

Intergenerational Discipleship Resources:

[Faith Formation Resources for Ministry beyond the pandemic](#)