

Healthy at Church Guidelines for Calvary 2021

Preschool and Children's Ministry

The past months have been uncertain and challenging times for us all. As we plan for re-opening our Preschool and Children's ministries at Calvary we look at it as a big responsibility. We have spent some time researching and planning to make sure we can have a good program where the girls and boys are participating in faith growing activities, socializing and having fun as before but in the safest possible way for them, our volunteers and families.

We can accomplish this by following the recommendations and guidelines from **Healthy at Work for Childcare Programs** issued by our state and national health organizations as well as other children's ministry resources. We have many good health and safety policies that are already a part of our preschool policies at Calvary that the Children's Ministry Committee updated and approved the beginning of 2020 for all the groups and programs that minister to our children but you may want to know these additional ones that we are adhering to this year with the presence of COVID-19:

PRESCHOOL

Preschoolers

There will be a maximum group of 10 children to a classroom. They will stay together with the same teachers during the activity in the same room.

Preschoolers who are five years of age or under will not wear masks due to safety precautions. Kindergarten through grade 5 will wear masks.

Teachers will seek to make eye contact and connect with preschoolers in safe, caring ways and work with parents concerning possible anxiety due to transitioning back to church.

Check-In and Pick-Up

Preschoolers and parents will be screened as they enter the preschool at the check-in station on the 1st floor. Preschoolers will have temperature checks for a fever (100.4 or higher) and parents will be asked screening questions concerning the health of their child at this time. Masks will be provided to those needing them.

Parents will register preschooler at the check-in station and then walk their child to their designated classroom. Parents are to maintain social distance of six feet and to wear masks during these times and anytime they are in the building or near volunteers, other children and parents on the campus. Parents will return to their child's class for pick-up.

Parents/custodial adults are asked to observe demarcation spots on the ground spread at 6 foot intervals to safely wait to drop-off and pick-up children.

Staying Clean and Disinfecting

Only toys that can be easily cleaned and disinfected will be in rooms.

A cleaning and sanitizing process will be done at the end of each day to ready the room for the next use. Surfaces and high touch areas will be cleaned as needed throughout the session by teachers. A plan for the cleaning of toys, bathrooms and classrooms is in place with our church custodian and preschool cleaning assistant.

Water fountain use has been discontinued at this time. Disposable cups will be available in classrooms.

Mouthed toys in younger rooms will be set aside in a separate marked container until they can be washed by gloved hands.

Families are asked not to bring in toys from home and to bring a minimal of items in a single diaper bag for the care of younger preschoolers.

Handwashing is extremely important to prevent the spread of COVID as well as other illnesses. Staff and children will be encouraged to wash their hands on arrival and frequently throughout the session as well as using hand sanitizer when needed.

Preschoolers, using bathrooms, will do so one person at a time and wash hands well when finished. Teachers are asked to help as appropriately needed and to spray disinfectant over the toilet afterwards to address aerosolization associated with flushing.

Preschoolers will be encouraged to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.

Screening and Illness

Preschoolers and teachers should stay home or be sent home if exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature of 100.4 or greater
- Cough
- Headache
- Sore throat (not caused by seasonal allergies)
- GI Issues (vomiting/diarrhea)
- New rash
- Exposure to someone who has COVID-19 during a 48 hour period before the onset of symptoms until meeting the criteria for discontinuing home isolation

If a child shows a fever of 100.4 or higher or displays other contagious symptoms, the child must be removed from the classroom immediately and sent to the designated safe, secluded

area. The parent/ guardian will be notified and must pick up the child as soon as possible. A volunteer that displays symptoms will be sent home as well.

Teachers who demonstrate symptoms of COVID-19 are asked to be tested for the illness.

Upon learning of a COVID-19 case involving someone who has been in the preschool, we will immediately notify the Fayette County Department of Public Health for guidance with a course of action for our ministry including contacting families. This will include a focus on cleaning and disinfecting of all areas potentially exposed to the sick person.

Preschoolers or adults that test positive for COVID-19 must follow the recommendation of the Health Department on when to return to the program.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements

Volunteers must wear a face mask unless doing so would represent a serious risk to their health or safety. Therefore, we are asking our volunteers with this condition to wait to come back until we are no longer wearing masks.

Volunteers should use gloves, along with any PPE normally used for routine tasks like changing diapers, preparing bottles or serving food, etc. in the care of children.

Classroom & Preschooler Materials

Classes will meet in rooms or spaces that allow for the maintaining of six feet or social distance between preschoolers (middle and Kindergarten) while doing small group and large group activities. Preschoolers will each be provided with their own individual, appropriate art supplies in a baggie or pencil box.

Equipping Teachers

All volunteers will be provided **Healthy at Church Guidelines for Calvary 2021 Preschool and Children's Ministry** and provided training to understand and execute them as well as cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

Volunteers will be provided gloves and other PPE as needed for care of children and cleaning.

CHILDREN

Children

There will be a maximum group of 10-12 children to a classroom. They will stay together with the same teachers during the activity in the same room.

Children, kindergarten through grade 5, will be expected to wear masks.

Teachers will seek to make eye contact and distant connections (like air high fives, waving, and air fist pump) with children and work with parents concerning possible anxiety due to transitioning back to church.

Check-In and Pick Up

Children will be screened as they enter the children's area (2nd floor) at the check-in station. Girls and boys will have temperature checks for a fever (100.4 or higher) and parents will be asked screening questions concerning the health of their child at this time. Masks will be provided to those needing them.

Parents will register children at the check-in station and allow their child to walk to their designated classroom. Parents are to maintain social distance of six feet and to wear masks during these times and anytime they are in the building or near volunteers, other children and parents on the campus. Parents will return to their child's class for pick-up.

Parents/custodial adults are asked to observe demarcation spots on the ground spread at 6 foot intervals to safely wait to drop-off and pick-up children.

Staying Clean and Disinfecting

Only items that can be easily cleaned and disinfected will be in rooms.

A cleaning and sanitizing process will be done at the end of each day to ready the room for the next use. Surfaces and high touch areas will be cleaned as needed by teachers. A plan for the cleaning of bathrooms and classrooms is in place with our church custodian.

Water fountain use has been discontinued at this time. Disposable cups will be available in classrooms.

Families are asked not to allow children to bring in toys from home.

Handwashing is extremely important to prevent the spread of COVID as well as other illnesses. Teachers and children will be encouraged to wash their hands on arrival and frequently throughout the session as well as using hand sanitizer when needed.

Children and teachers using bathrooms will do so one person at a time, are asked to spray disinfectant over the toilet afterwards to address aerosolization associated with flushing and wash hands well when finished.

Children will be encouraged to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.

Screening and Illness

Children and teachers should stay home or be sent home if exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

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Volunteers should use gloves, along with any PPE normally used for routine tasks like food distribution, cleaning, etc. in the care of children.

Classrooms & Children's Materials

Classes will meet in rooms or spaces that allow for the maintaining of six feet or social distance between children while doing small group and large group activities. Children will each be provided with their own individual, appropriate art supplies in a baggie or pencil box.

Equipping Teachers

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Volunteers will be provided gloves and other PPE as needed for care of children and cleaning.

Note from Carrie Beth

We appreciate your family being a part of our preschool and children's ministry at Calvary and excitedly look forward to returning to activities and a good year ahead with your children. We appreciate your patience and ask that you realize with our guidelines things may at times take a bit longer like check-in, bathroom lines, etc. We will learn and make notes each week to make the next week even better. Guidelines will also change along the way as things improve and we will update you along the way. We will all need to work together with trust, good communication, flexibility, and hope. Please know I will be available to talk, as always, with any questions you may have or thoughts to share.