

First Baptist Church Children's Ministry
Sunday Children's Ministries COVID-19 Response Plan
August 18, 2020

General Comments:

This document was written to inform our First Baptist Church Family of our intent to insure the health and safety of our children involved in our Sunday Children's Ministries. The specific ministries are: Sunday School, Children's Church, and Nursery. These guidelines will be enforced to the best of the ability of our staff and volunteers. The efficiency of these guidelines depends greatly on the cooperation and adherence by the families and volunteers involved in our Children's Ministries. Please review them and familiarize yourself with our expectations so we will be unified in our efforts.

We are aware of the ND K-12 Smart Restart Plan and we will base how we run our ministry week to week on the color system that we are currently in. These decisions will be made as we review data which may include, but not limited to:

- The current color phase identified by the Minot Public School District.
- Confirmed Covid-19 cases in Ward County.
- Known exposure within our church.
- Evidence of community spread.

We will also look to guidance issued by the First District Health Unit, the ND Department of Health, and the wisdom and leadership of our First Baptist Church Elder Board.

If changes must be made in the way we run our Sunday Children's Ministries, we will post the change on our First Baptist website by Friday at noon. We will also use our First Baptist Children's Ministry Facebook page to announce any change. This change could involve the use of face coverings or limiting the number of students per room or canceling our children's ministries for the day completely.

Regardless of the Color Code in place, the following precautions will be taken weekly:

- Appropriate enhanced cleaning of all Sunday School and Children's Church rooms. All surfaces will be disinfected and wiped down right after the areas have been used.
- Hand gel units are located at all entrance points into the hallways and the Fellowship Room. Hand gels will be available in all classrooms.
- Stairwell handrails will be disinfected between the 9:45 Adult Sunday School hour and the 11:00 Sunday School hour.
- We will limit interaction with large groups of children and remain in the classroom pods, not mixing with children from other grades.
- We will direct the flow of traffic in the stairwells and the hallways.
 - North and South stairwells will be Down-flow only.
 - West stairwell will be Up-flow only.

Physical Distancing for Preschoolers

Physical Distancing Guidelines will be observed to the best ability of our staff and volunteers.

- Children under age 3 will not be expected to maintain or follow physical distancing guidelines. Toy usage may be limited and changed out between services. Sanitizing between services will be done on the changing table, table tops, and large toys.
- Children age 3 through PreK: Seating for large group activities will be spaced further apart; seating for small group activities will be spread further apart, as we are able. Please keep in mind that most children this age do not understand physical distancing, and it would be impossible to enforce a 6 foot rule with them.
- Nursery/Preschool Ministry: Face coverings will be optional for both volunteers and children.

Physical Distancing for K-5th Graders

- We will maintain a reasonable number of students in each room. We will try to distance the children in their small group rooms as well as we are able. We will forgo using the smaller rooms and try to use only the larger rooms for small groups or utilize the bigger Fellowship Hall for small groups where we can spread out more.
- We will divide the Fellowship Hall for Large Group Time and have specific areas designated to keep each small group in their own pod with their teacher. We will not allow them to mix with students from other grades.
- We will be intentional and careful as we bring small groups into the Large Group area by dismissing them in intervals and making sure the hall is not congested. We will dismiss in the same manner, orderly and in intervals.

Screening Procedures in Nursery/Preschool/K-Elementary Sunday School, and Children's Church

Please help us maintain the safety of our children and the entire church family by taking personal responsibility in monitoring your children's symptoms before bringing them to any ministry here at church. We ask that families or guests respect our safety expectations.

Do not bring your children to church if you or others in your family are experiencing the following:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Unusual fatigue
- Sore throat
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Persistent itching
- Uncovered sores
- Undiagnosed rash
- Runny eyes

Considerations may be made for a runny nose or an infrequent cough if the child is teething or has medically diagnosed allergies. We reserve the right to see medical evidence (prescribed medicines or doctor's note) of allergies if we deem that necessary.

- Please do not bring your child if you/or your children have traveled to another state that is deemed a highly contagious red state. Please follow the CDC's recommended quarantine time.
- A child who has had a confirmed case of Covid-19 or been in close contact with someone who has had a confirmed case in the past 14 days should not attend children's ministries until they have been cleared to re-enter the community/classroom by their doctor.
- Please notify our Children's Ministry Director if/when any child who has recently participated in ministry, begins to experience Covid-like symptoms or someone in their family has been diagnosed or directly exposed to someone diagnosed with Covid-19.

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Parents only can pick up children, of any age. As you drop-off and pick-up, please avoid visiting in groups in the hallways to keep our hallways clear for people to pass freely while distancing themselves.

Please remember, while you are visiting after church, your child's Sunday School teacher is waiting for you to come and pick them up. Please be courteous and pick up your child promptly!

Drop-off and pick-up for Children's Church at 9:45 in Rooms 100 & 101:

- Please, only one parent drop-off and pick-up to alleviate congestion in the hallway.
- Drop-off should be done at door 100. Please try to aim for a smooth transition so we avoid a prolonged drop-off times. This will help us keep the number of people in our rooms low. If you need to step into the room to assure your child, leave through door 101 to make room for other parents entering door 100.
- Pick up should be done at door 101 as Sunday School children will be entering at 10:50 for Sunday School at door 100. Please pick-up and leave in a timely manner.

Drop-off for 3 Year Old Sunday School at 11:00 in Room 200:

- Please, only one parent drop-off and pick-up to alleviate congestion in the hallway.
- Please maintain distance from other families as you drop off your child. Try to avoid a long stay in the room as you drop off. However, three year olds may have separation anxiety; this is normal and may require you to step in for a few minutes. If your child is comfortable, you may drop-off and go.
- We ask that only one parent does the drop-off and pick-up to alleviate congestion in that area as the small hallway tends to develop a bottleneck quickly. Other family members are asked to move into the Sanctuary or into the front foyer so we maintain a clear hallway.
- Pick-up should be done by one parent. Please step to the side of the hallway and form a line. Wait at the half door and the teachers will dismiss your child to you without you stepping into the classroom.

Drop-off and pick-up for 4 & 5 Year Old Sunday School at 11:00 in Room 100 & 101:

- Please, only one parent drop-off and pick-up to alleviate congestion in the hallway.
- Drop off should be done at door 100. If your child is comfortable, please try to drop them off and leave immediately. If you end up having to step into the room to reassure your child, leave the room through the door in room 101 to make room for other parents entering.
- Pick-up should be done at door 101. Please exit and leave the area promptly, so we do not have congestion in the hallways.

Drop-off and Pick-up for K-5th Graders Sunday School at 11:00:

- Drop-off and pick-up will both be done at these rooms for each grade level. These are subject to change depending on our attendance. Please pick up your child and move quickly out of the hallways to avoid over- crowding with too many people in a small hallway.
 - Kindergarten – Room 106
 - 1st Grade – Room 102
 - 2nd Grade – Room 110 in Fellowship Hall
 - 3rd Grade – Fellowship Hall
 - 4 & 5th Grades – Rooms 104 & 105 and possibly 103

Classroom Procedures

- Children must immediately use sanitizer upon entering the classroom.
- Snacks will not be served for a period of time, in order to limit the spread of germs.
- Toys, books, and other items will be limited in each classroom. Items used in the classroom will be sanitized each week.
- In the preschool classrooms, we will use sit spots to space the children so they will not be touching each other.
- When moving from small group rooms to the large group area in the Fellowship Hall, we will call each class separately in intervals so the halls are not congested.
- Children will stay with their specific small group and be seated in square pods taped out on the floor so the kids are not sitting in one large mass of children as we have the large group lesson.
- Please follow the drop-off and pick-up guidelines stated earlier in the guidelines.
- Face coverings are optional at this time, however that could change if the State Color Phase changes.

Guidelines for Volunteers in any of our Children's Ministries

- All volunteers must be willing and able to follow the policies and procedures as outlined herein.
- At this point, the use of face covering is optional.
- Any volunteer who does not feel comfortable serving for any specific reason is asked to notify the leader of that specific ministry. The leader in charge will notify the Director of Children's Ministries.
- All volunteers will be asked to submit to the Screening Procedures listed in this document. Please let your leader or the Director of Children's Ministries know if you fail the screening and will not be able to volunteer to serve and the duration of your absence.