



**Pandemic Policies as we work together
to maintain a safe and healthy
ministry environment
for Crossings Kids and Volunteers**

Start Here

- Just as Crossings Kids did prior to the pandemic, ministry safety policies and procedures will continue to follow those established by local authorities (including the CDC, Texas Department of Health, and Katy ISD). The guidelines listed below are a reflection of those.
- Families who prefer for their child to worship from home are able to enjoy weekly programming featuring beloved CK teachers through the Clubhouse@Home stream found on our website, app, YouTube and Facebook.
- These guidelines are effective September 13, 2020. Changes to the public health situation may necessitate changes to these guidelines, and the church will re-evaluate policies regularly in order to adapt to the changing landscape of community health.
- We will begin a phased approach to meeting in person with kids. New phases will emerge as the volunteer pool grows. This document outlines the guidelines for Phase 1.
- Despite Crossings best efforts to mitigate the risk of spreading Covid-19, parents must understand that these are risk-management measures and the church cannot guarantee zero exposure to children or volunteers. As a result, parents who choose to have their kids participate in ministry activities do so with these risks in mind and they assume those risks on behalf of their children.

Phase 1 Classrooms and Capacities

Sunday morning in-person ministry will include the following age groups:

- Kindergarten - 3rd grade in the Campground room
- Toddlers - 2 year olds in the Firefly room

Due to a limited volunteer base as well as maximizing social distance possibilities in the Campground and Firefly rooms, the following capacities will be set:

- Campground room: 16 kids plus 2 adult volunteers
- Firefly room: 10 kids plus 2 adult volunteers
- These class size capacities also reflect the CDC Guidelines for childcare centers during Covid-19 according to the square footage of the classroom

As we enter new Phases of re-opening and/or add classrooms, this document will be revised to reflect any new policies with adding new age groups.

Volunteer Self-Screening

- All volunteers and church staff will screen themselves and other members living in their home for Covid-19 symptoms prior to serving with children.

- Volunteers will stay home if they have recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them: feeling feverish or fever over 100 degrees, frequent coughing, sneezing, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, muscle pain, shortness of breath, sudden loss of smell, etc.
- Volunteers will not serve in the Clubhouse if they have had known close contact with a person lab confirmed with Covid-19 within 14 days of serving

Children Screened Prior to Arrival at Clubhouse

- Parents are asked to keep their child home if they have recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them: feeling feverish or fever over 100 degrees, frequent coughing, sneezing, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, muscle pain, shortness of breath, sudden loss of smell
- Parents are asked to keep their child home if they have had known close contact with a person lab confirmed with Covid-19 within 14 days*
- Parents are asked to screen their child and family members prior to arrival to the church campus

Masks

- Volunteers and church staff will wear masks while inside the Clubhouse
- Any family member picking up/dropping off a child is asked to wear a mask
- Masks are highly encouraged for students in grades Kinder – 3rd grade when inside the Clubhouse
- Volunteers will not be monitoring mask wearing amongst these students or trying to enforce students' compliance with wearing masks (by, for example, continually asking students to "pull up their masks"). Parents should be aware that there will likely be students not wearing masks or whose masks aren't always functioning the way they are intended

Pre-Registration

- Families will pre-register children for Crossings Kids to help ensure adequate volunteer numbers to maintain minimum ratios in classes
- Information about how to pre-register will be available on the church web site and app

Check in/Drop off: Reduce adult numbers indoors

- One parent or guardian will enter the Clubhouse with their child
- If dropping off an elementary student, parents will drop off to a volunteer at the entry of the hallway. Elementary students can walk down the hallway to class.
- If dropping off a toddler, one parent to walk the toddler to their classroom
- Check in volunteers will encourage extra adults/family members/friends to stay outside the building so to limit the number of adults in the Clubhouse

Pick Up: Save chit chat for outside building

- The same one adult who dropped off the child is encouraged to pick up the child
 - Adults are encouraged by volunteers to visit with friends outside of the Clubhouse, not in the hallways or the lobby. Quick pick up and exit is encouraged.
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TODDLER CLASS:

Essentials only to enter classroom

- No strollers, carriers, backpacks, kids purse, etc. to stay in the kids building upon drop off. Limit items brought into classroom to essential items only. No toys from home.
- Only essential belongings to stay with child (jacket, diapers, skippy cup, etc.) in classroom

Hand Sanitizing

- Upon entry into the classroom and pick up, volunteers will assist each child to use hand sanitizer

Social Distancing

- There will be no social distancing controls for this age group
- The classroom will have more open space due to limited capacities

Diapering

- Diaper changer will use gloves and new piece of wax paper under each child
- Changing area is disinfected after diapering each child
- Diaper Genie is disinfected at end of Sunday services
- Diaper bag from Diaper Genie is removed at end of Sunday services
- After diapering, even if wearing gloves, diaper changer washes hands with soap and water

Classroom Toys

- Hard to clean toys have already been removed from all classrooms (legos, toys with fabric, toys likely to be put in mouth/kitchen food, puzzles)
- If a toy is seen soiled in some way (put in the mouth, etc) during church, volunteers will immediately place it in the "Soiled Toys" bin located in the classroom

Classroom Disinfection

After the last child is picked up, workers will:

- Lay out used toys/used items in center of the room and disinfect
- All high touch areas will be disinfected such as: tables/chairs, light switches, door knobs, cabinets

Water and Snacks

- No snacks allowed in classrooms
 - Clubhouse community water fountains will remain out of use to individual users
 - Bottled water will be available in classrooms
 - Parents of toddlers are asked to bring a labeled sippy cup
 - Disposable sippy cups will only be provided by the church to those who do not have one, and they will get to take it home
 - Single use dixie cups will be in preschool rooms and the Campground room
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CAMPGROUND: Kindergarten - 3rd Grade

Hand Sanitizing

- Upon entry into the classroom, volunteers will guide each child to use hand sanitizer
- Upon parent pick up, volunteers will have children use hand sanitizer as they exit the classroom

Social Distancing

- Kids will be spread apart and have a marked space that is theirs. That space may differ from week to week, for example: a “box car” to sit in, 4’ mat to sit on, innertube, etc.
- Volunteers will encourage kids to social distance
- Volunteers will teach “Airplane Hands.” Term is repeated each week so kids understand – in large group, ask kids to spread out their hands/wings and stand that far apart
- Small group and large group activities are tailored with social distancing in mind — no activities that require touching, close contact, or active play

Teaching Tools

- Regularly attending kids will have individual pencil boxes with their name on it in the classroom. This box includes: crayons/pencils; play dough; scissors; glue stick, etc. There will be extra boxes for visitors.
- Hard to clean toys have already been removed from all classrooms (legos, board games, toys with fabric, puzzles)
- If a toy is seen soiled in some way during church, volunteers will immediately place it in the “Soiled Toys” bin located in the classroom

Disinfecting The Space

- Volunteers will disinfect pencil boxes, any used toys, mats, etc. at the end of service
- Volunteers will disinfect all high touch surfaces such as light switches, door knobs, any other frequently touched surfaces

Water

- Water fountains will remain out of use
 - Bottled water will be available in each classroom
 - Single use dixie cups will be in preschool rooms and the Campground room
 - Bottled water will be used in dixie cups
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Limit Mixing Groups

- Varying age groups will not mix. Classes will stay together and not combine with others. (Campground classroom is considered one class)
- A child will be dropped off in the same classroom week to week
- Children of volunteers will not serve with parent volunteers unless they are a trained, 6th grade or older volunteer

Preventing the Spread

- Volunteers will receive additional training about preventing the spread of contagious diseases
- Volunteers will encourage frequent hand washing with soap and water or hand sanitizer
- Volunteers will encourage kids to cover coughs and sneezes

If a child develops symptoms during church services

- If a child develops a fever over 100, seems feverish, frequent coughing, shortness of breath, the parent will be paged out of service
- Child will isolate to the Clubhouse front entry way with a CK Team Leader until parent arrives

If a positive case of Covid-19 is identified with a child or volunteer who attended Crossings Kids

- Leaders identify any individuals who had close contact with the affected participant and inform them of possible exposure. If it is a child, this also includes informing those who were in classes with siblings of that child.
- No names are mentioned. The church will not provide the specific names of any person testing positive but will do its best to identify specific groups of people that may be most at risk of exposure.
- Any volunteer or staff member who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate until the below conditions have been met.

Returning to volunteer or participate in the program

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual is encouraged to return to volunteer or participate when all three of the following criteria are met:

1. at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
2. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
3. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual should refrain from serving until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above.

Any volunteer or staff member living with someone who experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19, whether they have a positive COVID-19 test or not, should self-isolate for two weeks. If they do not experience any COVID-19 symptoms during that period, they are welcome to return to serve. If they still experience symptoms, they must self-isolate until the conditions outlined above have been met.

About Masks, Volunteers and Ministry

We understand there are varying thoughts surrounding masks. At the very heart of ministry to children is the ability to relate and build trusting relationships, and masks can deter that process.

However, for this temporary season, we will engage the use of masks in an abundance of caution for the following reasons:

- Just as Crossings Kids did prior to the pandemic, ministry safety policies and procedures will continue to follow those established by authorities of the local school district and health officials.
- Our desire to start extra cautious with safety precautions is a form of ministry to not only children, but their families, their grandparents, those with compromised immune systems in their families. Our heart and reach is for not just those we are in the same room with.
- While the kids ministry team will take extra measures to encourage social distancing between kids, kids of any age long to be together and surprises happen. Masks are another protection for volunteers and other students in those times when kids will be kids and be socially very close.

Masks and the debate around them are no surprise to our sovereign God.

God can and will plant seeds in the hearts of children at His church no matter what perceived barriers exist! He has our children and He will use this too for His glory. Thank you for your grace and understanding as we continue to navigate the changing waters. And, thank you for partnering with us as we try new ways in a pandemic for kids to continue to engage in their church community.

Questions or concerns? Contact tisha@crossingskaty.com