



A **Safeguard Checklist** as we work together to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for Crossings Students and Volunteers **

Start Here:

- Just as Crossings Kids & Students 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 student to participate VIRTUALLY with Student Ministry will have that opportunity. Zoom links will continue to be active (and sent via email) so students can participate if they choose to not attend in person.
- These guidelines are effective August 5, 2020. Changes to the public health situation may necessitate changes to these guidelines, and the church will re-evaluate policies as need arises.
- We will begin a phased approach to meeting in person with kids as is the school district, beginning with High Schoolers, then Junior High.
- Once in-person classes begin to meet in Katy ISD, we will communicate with families next steps for students to meet in person at the Clubhouse.
- 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 students participate in student ministry activities do so with these risks in mind and they assume those risks on behalf of their students.

What you can expect for OUTDOOR student gatherings:

- All volunteers self-screen prior to serving (take temperature, screen for symptoms)
- Volunteers and students will plan to sit 6' apart and maintain social distancing upon arrival and dismissal.
- Students stay with the same group and do not mix with other age groups (ex: Junior High and High School do not mix)
- Students use hand sanitizer provided by church upon arrival.
- Small group discussion and any activities are tailored with social distancing in mind — no activities that require touching, close contact, or active play.
- There will be communication from church staff to all families in attendance if a Covid-19 exposure took place at a Student Ministry event. 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.
- Students who arrive and are showcasing common allergy symptoms, even if they think it is just allergies, will be asked to return home, out of an abundance of caution.

- Masks are encouraged for students and volunteers. However, in accordance with Executive Order GA-29 as well as Katy ISD Policies, students and volunteers will NOT be required to wear a face covering as long as the group is able to maintain a minimum of 6' social distancing. This applies outdoors at our church campus. If volunteers see that students do not comply with consistently maintaining of the 6', we will require masks for all students and volunteers in an abundance of caution.

What the Student Ministry expects from parents:

- Keep your student home if they are experiencing any symptoms: fever over 100.4, frequent coughing, sneezing, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, muscle pain, shortness of breath.*
- Keep your student home if they have had known close contact with a person lab confirmed with Covid 19 within 14 days*
- Parents screen their student and family members prior to arrival to the church campus.*
 - Stay home if temp is over 100.4 or higher than normal for your child
 - Screen for common symptoms: frequent coughing, sneezing, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, muscle pain, shortness of breath
- Review the basics of preventing the spread with your student before arrival: wear mask, cover coughs and sneezes, keep distance from others, no touching others, no highly active play or yelling.
- Understanding and grace towards volunteers as we navigate ministry in the Covid environment

About Masks, Volunteers and Student Ministry

We understand there are varying thoughts surrounding masks. At the very heart of student ministry 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 when 1) consistent and predictable social distancing does not happen with students, or 2) consistent social distancing is not possible due to an event or situation, 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.
- We equally prioritize the safety of our volunteers with the safety of our students. Mask use is a way to minister to those adult volunteers who are willing to be face to face with a group of our students for the sake of ministry.
- While student ministry volunteers 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