# MINISTRY PLAN FOR COVID-19

**Your child's safety is very important to us,** and we have put many hours into developing a plan to safeguard our families, kids, and staff. We are utilizing suggestions from the CDC, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, Department of Human Services, Maury County Public schools, other local churches, and childcare organizations as we make our decisions.

**For now, we will only be accepting those two years of age through 6th grade.** The following rules will apply for any time we have preschoolers and children during service times. Please sign up your child on our church website. Otherwise, we can't guarantee a spot. Rules for events outside of service times may be slightly altered, but those changes will be made available for those events.

**Social Distancing:** Preschoolers do not social distance well. Interaction is also important to their overall development and well being. We will be encouraging preschoolers to leave space for their friends and minimizing toys in centers to invite kids to spread out. In all honesty, we will be unable to maintain social distancing for preschoolers, but we will limit the number of kids in each preschool room based on capacity. Room assignments may vary based on the number of kids in each age group. For elementary kids, we will be meeting in KIDS Town Square or a large room where social distancing is possible. We will do everything we can to encourage 1st-6th graders to remain at least six feet apart.

**Masks:** If you are more comfortable with your child wearing a mask, we will do everything possible to enforce they wear one. However, sometimes masks may be difficult to wear properly, may be a choking hazard, and may often be misused by kids. For teachers, the ability to communicate can be greatly restricted with masks. For these reasons, we will not mandate masks for kids or teachers. We will however support anyone, kids or teachers, who choose to wear one. Our staff and teachers will wear them in specific situations, like dealing with a sick child or greeting in the hallways.

**Cleaning:** We are taking extra measures to clean, sanitize, and disinfect surfaces. We are also eliminating items that are difficult to clean, including fabrics (except for doll clothes for preschoolers that we will wash routinely). We have always cleaned the rooms each day they are used, but we will be cleaning frequently touched items, like toys, doorknobs, sinks, etc. during all activities taking place in the building. Activity supplies will not be shared. Plus, we will be washing hands or using hand sanitizer often. Our water fountains will be off limits, but we will have disposable cups to give the kids water when needed. We will not be providing snacks.

**Arrival and Dismissal:** All volunteers and staff will have a temp check as they enter the building. We will not be doing temp checks for kids during services. We ask that you check your child's temperature before you bring him or her to church. By bringing your child, you are also agreeing that he, she or anyone in the household has not had a fever, vomiting, loss of taste or smell, unusual cough, or shortness of breath in the last 24 hours. Our preschool hallway is one way. Please follow the signs. For elementary parents and kids, please stay to the right side of the hallway when entering and leaving. If necessary, we will limit the number of people that enter our hallways at one time. We request that parents and families promptly leave the kids area after drop off and pick up.

**Items Entering the Building:** We want to eliminate items going back and forth between church and home. Please don't bring diaper bags, cups, toys, blankets, or other items. We will supply diapers, but feel free to bring your own if you have a favorite brand. We also have extra clothes in case of a potty accident. Pacifiers and comfort items will be allowed, but only if absolutely necessary. Any crafts or activities that go home will be placed in a plastic bag for pick up.

**Positive Cases of Covid-19:** If a child leaves sick during his or her time with us, we will take that child to a designated room to wait on mom or dad. Meanwhile, we will take the class the child left to another room or outside while we sanitize the room and other areas where the child has been. If your child tests positive for Covid-19 or any other infectious disease after being at church, please let us know. That will allow us to notify adults and parents of kids who were in the same room. If your child does test positive for Covid-19, please don't bring him or her until after 10 days from a positive test result. Plus, the child must be fever free for at least 24 hours without medication.

*Keep in mind that this is a summary of things we plan to do to keep our kids, families, and staff safe during this time. It may change as we learn more about Covid-19.*

**CONTACT PASTOR DATHAN HALE WITH ANY QUESTIONS: dathan@thefirstfamily.org // 931.388.2655**