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 2 years of age through 6th grade. The following rules will apply for any time we have preschoolers and children during service times. 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 through 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. Please let us know if you want us to enforce masking wearing for your child, but understand we can't guarantee the mask will not be removed. Sometimes masks may be difficult to wear properly, may be a choking hazard, and may 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 may 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, door knobs, sinks, etc., during all activities taking place in the building. 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. Any snacks provided will be individually-packaged.

Arrival and Dismissal: We are not doing temp checks unless we suspect an illness. 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 or she 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 preschool and kids area after drop off and pick up. ***Please remember that a responsible adult must be on campus for each preschooler attending our regular Sunday and Wednesday services.***

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.

Positive Cases of COVID-19: If anyone in your household is awaiting a COVID-19 test or has tested positive, please don't bring your child to church until your family has completed the required quarantine time per CDC requirements. Also, please let us know if your child tests positive for COVID-19 within 48 hours of being at church. That will allow us to notify adults and parents of kids who were in the same room. If a child gets sick during his or her time with us, we will take that child to a designated area 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.

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.

Updated 1/13/21

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