西雅圖證道堂
Evangelical
Chinese Church
of Seattle

Children's Ministry COVID-19 Protocol & Retreats

Fall 2021

Dear ECC family,

While we've had a record-breaking hot summer, fall is soon approaching, and kids are heading back to school in person. Likewise, ECC will restart our Children's Ministry with a tentative start date of Sept 19. Many parents and children are both excited and anxious about how this will look during our continued struggle with COVID-19 and the Delta variant as well as other variants to come. The Delta variant has been shown to be more transmissible. Fortunately, among the vaccinated, the risk of serious complications and death is still very low. For children, the risk of serious complications also appears low. That said, there is a real risk that an unknowingly-infected person could unintentionally bring COVID-19 into Children's Ministry. If this happens, we have developed safety protocols to try to mitigate some of that risk to our children and the families of our children. Much of our safety protocol mirrors what is already happening in the schools that our children attend.

ECC Children's Ministry COVID-19 Protocols:

1. Wear masks (required, including volunteers). Note: A reminder that everyone should wear masks for all indoor activities regardless of vaccination status.
2. Physical distancing of 3 feet (Children).
3. Temperature check of all children, teachers, and volunteers. If temp > 100.4˚F, they cannot attend.
4. Hand sanitize on the way in.
5. Please do not bring your kids if they feel sick (including fever, runny nose, cough, nasal congestion, loss of smell or taste, diarrhea, etc.) or have been in close contact to someone sick within the last 2 weeks.
6. Kids will come into the classroom and sit down as soon as they arrive at the classroom.
7. No large group assembly. Class sizes/groups will be limited to 20 children plus up to 4 teachers/volunteers.
8. Increased ventilation in classrooms (leave doors and windows, where available, open), air cleaner with HEPA filter in each room.
9. For snacks/drinks, teachers may bring their classes outside to designated areas on each campus where kids will be spaced 6 feet apart and can remove their masks to enjoy their snacks and drinks.
    a. Recommend using prepackaged snacks
10. Bathroom breaks: each class may only send 1 child at a time to use the restroom.
11. Surfaces, classroom supplies, toys and books
    a. Frequently-touched surfaces should be sanitized after use if another group will be using that space within the next 3 days (72 hours). Typically, the risk of fomite transmission (transmission from a touched surface) is minor after 3 days (72 hours). https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/surface-transmission.html
    b. Children will have their own set of supplies for that day. Each child will be given a bag/pouch with stationery supplies to be used that day. They should not share supplies, toys, or books that have been used that day. Teachers will collect all items once class is over. After 72 hours, they can be used again.

   c. Children are encouraged to bring their own Bibles and water bottle. They can also bring their own stationery.
12. Classes for Toddlers (younger than 3 yrs old) – will not be offered in the fall. Tentatively to restart in early 2022.
13. Picking up your child
    a. Parents will be dismissed early from service (at the beginning of announcements) to pick up their children.
    b. Parents will queue to pick up their child one at a time from the classroom.
    c. After picking up your child, we encourage you to avoid lingering around inside the church and exit the church building to prevent any unnecessary exposure to your child and your family.
14. Contact Tracing
    a. If your child becomes sick with COVID-19, please notify the church immediately.
        i. All families of children in the class who have been exposed will be notified.
        ii. What to do if you or your child were exposed: follow CDC guidelines on quarantine and testing. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html
        iii. Contact your or your child's physician for questions or guidance.
15. Note: Parents who have not been vaccinated or households with an immunosuppressed family member should consider not bringing their children to church due to their increased risk of serious complications from COVID-19.
16. Be ready to pivot our protocols with any new guidance from public health officials or the local schools.
17. We will continue to provide online options for all our church ministries, including Children's Ministry.

Teachers and Volunteers:

- All Teachers and volunteers must be vaccinated (required).
- Avoid hugging or touching the kids, unless they are in your household family. We will provide you safe ways to show your care, love, and attention for our children.
- God bless you and thank you for your care for our children in this very difficult time!

Children's Ministry is so vital for our children's spiritual growth and emotional well-being. Please continue to pray for God's protection and provision all our children and for all the dedicated teachers and helpers.

RETREATS

Given the rise in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant, we recommend to not hold any large group fall retreats and to defer retreats until the beginning of next year, depending on how the pandemic progresses. Retreats are considered the highest risk activity due to prolonged close proximity and the inability to consistently mask.

A general reminder for all:

It is important to reinforce that those who participate in any gatherings indoor and outdoor must meet the following requirements:

- Do not have any COVID-19 symptoms.

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- Have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Have not been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Wear masks for all indoor activities regardless of vaccination status.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

ECC COVID Task Force

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