**Updated 6/3/21**

**Sunday School, Children’s Chapel, Vacation Bible Schools/Summer Day Camps.**  [These protocols are not applicable for child care, preschool or schools located on the church property or otherwise affiliated with the church, or for summer camps operated by these organizations. The operation of these organizations remain under the authority of the state and local government agencies, and any relevant professional associations, as outlined in the original Addendum.]

This guideline applies only to those activities and ministries run directly by the church. This would include Sunday school, children’s chapel, Vacation Bible School etc.

Activities for all children and youth may resume under specific conditions. This includes VBS/camp as well as children’s choirs. Following the CDC advice for preschools and camps, children should be kept in discreet cohort based on age or activity. Each cohort should have their own dedicated spaces and adults. They should not intermingle for activities nor share toys/objects between groups. If a common area is used, it should be disinfected before it is used by another cohort. As with the above guidance, activities should be moved outside as often as possible. When activities must be indoors, extra ventilation should be used. Hybrid programs that blend online and in-person, including those that alternate when groups are present in-person, should also be considered. Children’s choirs are subject to all of the above guidance on singing as well as these protocols. Complete details on health and safety protocols for ministry with children can be found here (LINK).

It is important to remember at this present time, children under 16 cannot be vaccinated, therefore it is strongly recommended that all staff and volunteers who work directly with them are fully vaccinated.

These guidelines reflect the May 28th, 2021 [CDC updates](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html) to previous CDC guidelines to which we adhered.

**Guidelines for Sunday Schools, Children’s chapel, Vacation Bible Schools, Summer Day Camps,**

Have in place an **Emergency Operating Plan.(EOP):**

* Strongly encouraging vaccination for all eligible people
* Health screening for symptoms of COVID-19 and diagnostic or screening testing for COVID-19
* Using multiple prevention strategies including masks, physical distancing and cohorting, residential housing arrangements for overnight camps, and improved ventilation
* Reviewing safety protocols for staff and campers who might be at higher-risk of serious health effects if they contract COVID-19
* Modifying camp activities to promote outdoor and other lower-risk activities
* Traveling to and from overnight camp
* Cleaning facilities and equipment
* Proper use of personal protective equipment by any healthcare staff
* Policies and practices that enable staff to stay home when they are sick, have been exposed, or are caring for someone who is sick
* Policies and practices that allow families flexibility if campers have symptoms or test positive before arriving at camp
* Managing suspect or confirmed case(s), including contact tracing efforts
* Planning for an outbreak

**Cohorting (Identifying Smaller Groups and Keeping Them Together)**

* Same children, same providers at each gathering
* Limit mixing between groups: stagger playground/area times
* Each group in separate area
* Stagger parent/caretaker drop-off/pick-up

**Reinforce Prevention Strategies in Indoor Shared Spaces**

* Number and use of shared spaces may vary by program type.
* Before entering any shared space, require children to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
* During use of a shared space, combine multiple prevention strategies, such as use of masks, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection of shared objects and high touch surfaces.
* Consistent with the recent CDC guidance, fully vaccinated campers and staff do not have to wear masks. Unvaccinated campers should wear masks indoors but may remove their masks outdoors provided they are not in crowded settings. Because many camps serve a range of children and youth, many campers will be unvaccinated. In such circumstances, careful consideration should be given in creating mask policies and practices to avoid confusion among campers. Although people who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks, camp programs should be supportive of campers or staff who choose to wear a mask. No child under 2 should wear a mask.
* Increase ventilation indoors by either:
	+ Opening windows and/or doors on opposite sides of the building and using fans to blow outside air through the building; or
	+ Optimizing ventilation provided by the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

**Food Service**

Campers may bring their own meals and snacks to camp. However, many camps provide children with meals and snacks. Some camps may provide meals and snacks through the United States Department of Agriculture’s Summer Food Service, a critical program for reducing food insecurity.

As feasible, have children and staff eat meals and snacks outdoors or in well-ventilated spaces while maintaining physical distance as much as possible. Campers should store masks in a space designated for each child that is separate from others when not being worn (for example, in individual, labeled containers, bags, or cubbies) and put their mask back on when not eating or drinking. All campers and staff should remain at least 6 feet apart when eating or drinking.

* Wear a mask
* Wash hands
* Eat outdoors
* Maintain cohorts with safe-spacing (6 feet)
* Individually contained food; avoid self-serve foods
* Disposable serving items

**Maintaining Physical Distance**

Physical distancing provides protection by reducing risk of exposure and limiting the number of close contacts when someone is infected with COVID-19. Establish policies and implement strategies to promote physical distancing, indoors and outdoors, of

* At least 3 feet between all campers within a cohort
* At least 6 feet between all campers outside of their cohort
* At least 6 feet while eating and drinking, including among people within the same cohort
* At least 6 feet between campers and staff

At least 6 feet between staffIf all campers and staff in a cohort are fully vaccinated, then distancing does not need to be maintained. As with masking, careful consideration should be given to creating policies and practices that avoid confusion among campers.

**Limit Shared Objects**

* For young children and others who might not consistently or properly wear masks, wash hands, cover coughs and sneezes, and limit shared objects.
* Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean.
* Keep each camper’s belongings separated from others’ and in individual, labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
* Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible (for example, assign art supplies or other equipment to a single camper), or limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of campers at a time and clean between use.
* Limit sharing of electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.