

Covid19 and Children's Ministry

When churches begin to provide children's ministry

Children's Ministry team will need to be developed, equipped, supported and trained. It's quite possible it will be a different team from the past, due to some older team members, or members who have concerns and who may choose not to participate.

Every children's team member should have their temperature taken prior to serving. You will need back up people on hand to fill in for someone who has a temperature.

Limit leaders in the preschool and children's areas to those who do not have pre-existing conditions. Also limit leaders to those under 65 years old.

Communicate with families about what church will look like when they return. Provide talking points that can be shared with children.

Churches may need to pre-register children to limit how many are in any room at a time. Some churches are starting with specific limits in each room.

Consider transforming other rooms if available, into children's rooms to expand capacity.

We cannot expect toddlers and preschoolers to stay 6 feet apart.

It may be difficult for children to enter a room with teachers wearing a mask. Do not force children to stay.

Children may respond more easily with a teen wearing a mask. The teen could serve as a buffer between child and teacher.

Have extra volunteers to help in the preschool ministry where some children may suffer from separation anxiety after only being with parents for a long time.

Have only one-person handle children check-in stations and do not pass the check-in device if you are using one. Have parent pick it up. Make sure they are sanitized. Let parents know in advance that check-ins may take longer than normal.

Mark the floor with tape to help families stay 6 feet apart while awaiting check-in.

Have hand sanitizer and ear thermometers available.

Let families know in advance that if a child has a fever, they will not be able to participate in children's ministry.

Wellness policy visible at check in and or each room.

Have parents drop children off at the door instead of entering the room.

Have a check list of what has been cleaned and the time it was cleaned for each room and post at the door to assure parents.

Disinfect between services. (Allow extra time between services for this)

Consider checking children in ahead of worship but continue including children in worship and then inviting them to children's ministry after having participated in a portion of worship.

Equip, support and train volunteers to on protocol and so they can be a non-anxious presence.

Recognize that some families will not feel comfortable coming even when the church doors are open. Reach out to them, acknowledge their concerns, and let them know we value their decision.

Consider how you will minister to and with the families who choose not to come to the church building.