

Dear Families:

We are thrilled to welcome children and youth back into our church building for new in-person options which kick off on Sunday, Sept. 12. This letter is to communicate the practices and expectations to optimize the safety of all participants, volunteers and staff while we are together in person during the COVID pandemic.

These procedures were developed based on our review of recommendations from the CDC, PA Department of Health and the Bower Hill Opening Task Force. I have been certified and completed on-line training through the Institute for Childhood Preparedness on **COVID-19 Coronavirus Training for Early Childhood Professionals**. This program was extremely helpful in identifying the relevant elements for our re-opening and safety plans. All of that said, please use your comfort level to determine your willingness to participate.

I ask that you review these procedures carefully so that you understand your part in helping to ensure the safety of all participants, volunteers and staff. While we will be reviewing these procedures with all children at the beginning of our time together in an age-appropriate manner each week, we ask you to also share these in advance to help prepare your child.

Lastly, we remain steadfast in our goal to provide a safe place for you and your family to grow in faith and share God's love. I ask for your continued support and patience as we reopen. As we fully implement these new procedures, we may find things missing, or things that can be changed as we find better ways of doing things. We will continue to monitor and actively incorporate any new guidance from the county, state, and federal levels. As always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!
Amy Grella

New Procedures for Kids and Families

- All participants (including parents, volunteers, staff, and children over 2) are required to wear face masks when we meet for organized children and youth activities. This includes the Sunday school classrooms, nursery, lounges, and fellowship hall (during youth group), and when meeting outdoors on church grounds during our scheduled meeting times.
- While masking is not required (only recommended) for other general indoor areas (worship, coffee hour, etc). With a seating capacity of over 400 people, the sanctuary provides sufficient space for social distancing and continual fresh air.
- Social distancing among adults should be maintained. We will encourage masking in worship up until children leave after the Children's Sermon.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be setup in each room to allow children, volunteers and staff to sanitize or wash their hands.

- All children should bring their own water bottle each week, as water fountains are not in service.
- If you or your child are sick or not feeling well for any reason, we ask that you do not attend that week.
- If you or your child tests positive or come in contact with someone who tests positive for COVID after attending an in-person activity, please notify us immediately.

Procedures for the Classrooms and Groups

- We will minimize the use of shared objects and toys. Any hard-to-clean toys will be removed from circulation in the nursery and room 110.
- Common craft supplies will be separated into individual boxes so each student has their own box to use that day.
- We will increase air ventilation in all indoor rooms in use by keeping windows and doors open and/or running the air sanitizers purchased for this purpose.
- Water fountains are not in service. A water cooler will be available so kids can refill their water bottles, and paper cups will be on-hand.
- When indoors, children will be spaced out to ensure some distancing between individuals. Siblings may be asked to sit together to help maximize space.
- We will maintain a record of children present each week in each classroom to aid in contact tracing if needed. We will communicate to you via email if a positive case is reported.

Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sanitizing Procedures

- All cleaning and hand sanitizing supplies that have been procured have been verified effective against COVID from the online list maintained by the EPA.
- New procedures have been implemented that include sanitization of toys, and disinfecting high-traffic touch point areas like doorknobs, tables, chair backs, light switches, handrails, etc.
- Individual craft supply boxes and any nursery toys used each week will be sanitized between uses.
- Cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing will initially be performed by staff who have been trained on proper use of cleaning supplies to ensure the effectiveness of the cleaning and sanitizing efforts. Over time, adult volunteers may be cross-trained so they can assist in these efforts.