



Children's Ministries Protocols

Effective Sunday, January 10, 2021

First things first:

- **Please read through all information.**
- If you are immune suppressed, high risk for other reasons, or just not yet comfortable meeting in person, we encourage you to join us for our livestream services at 9 and 11AM. You're still part of our family, and we look forward to welcoming you back when it's the right time for you.
- Please stay home if you are feeling sick, have a temperature, or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Our Commitment to Health and Safety

Grace Community Church and the Children's Team Staff are committed to protecting the health of our children, families, staff and volunteers. To limit the potential spread of COVID-19 we have made some changes to our programming. The following procedures will outline practices and strategies that will be used to protect the health of our children, families, staff, and volunteers while at the same time allow children in the classrooms to have engaging interactions and fun learning environments.

Pre-Registration

Pre-registration for children's church is not necessary. However, classrooms will have a limited capacity and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Once classrooms are at capacity, no more students will be able to be checked in. To help with social distancing we are limiting each class to eight (8) kids and two (2) leaders, infants–grade 3. In 45 Degrees each class is limited to ten (10) kids and two (2) leaders.

Upon Arrival

Staff and families will be asked: "In the past 14 days..."

- Have you received a positive COVID-19 test result?
- Have you been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19?
- Have you experienced symptoms such as a persistent cough, fever, difficulty breathing, chills, change in smell or taste, and/or vomiting?

Sunday Check-in and Pick-up

- A hand sanitizing station is located at the Family Entrance for families to use upon entry.
- There will be designated check-in and pick-up areas so parents avoid entering the classrooms.
- We are asking one grown-up to check in and pick up their child. Check-In will be located outside the elementary entrance. Preschool pick-up will be located inside Café Grace. K-Grade 5 pickup will be in elementary in the large group area.
- Children age two and up will wear masks in common areas until they arrive at their classroom. 2s-young 5 will not have to wear masks once they enter the classroom but can leave them on if they want to. K-Grade 5 must wear mask for entire service.

Temperature Checks

Because fever is a key indicator of COVID-19 in children, a Children's Team staff member will check each child's temperature before they enter the classroom.

Face Mask/Covering for Staff and Volunteers

Children's staff and volunteers must wear a mask or face shield at all times.

Face Masks/Coverings for Children

- Children age two and up are required to wear a face mask in common areas; this includes check-in and pick-up areas. 2s-young 5s are not required to wear face masks in the classrooms. K- Grade 5 must wear mask for entire time while in their classrooms.

Hand Washing

We will reinforce regular hand washing and hand sanitizing practices in the classroom:

- Volunteers and children will wash hands with soap for at least 20 seconds.
- Volunteers will assist children who cannot wash hands on their own.
- If a volunteer or child coughs or sneezes with hand contact, hands will be washed immediately.
- Hand sanitizer will be used before and after activities.

Changes to Our Physical Spaces in Our Classrooms

We will use the following practices in our classrooms to minimize the spread of illness:

- Rearrange classroom or move to larger meeting areas to seat children farther apart, limiting the number of kids sitting together.
- Circulate outdoor air as much as possible by keeping windows open to the extent that this does not pose any safety risks and if weather permits.
- Where possible, limit use of common spaces in the classroom. When common spaces must be used, we will clean these areas between groups.

Toys and Classroom Materials

At this time we have made the following changes to the toys and materials in our classrooms:

- We have removed toys and objects which cannot be easily cleaned or sanitized between uses.
- Each child will be given their own supplies, such as crayons, pencils, glue, etc.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Toys: Preschool only

We will practice the following procedures:

- Clean and disinfect toys frequently. There will be a new set of toys for each service.
- Clean toys with soapy water, rinse, sanitize with non-toxic disinfectant, rinse again and air dry. This process will be done weekly, with newly clean and disinfected toys being rotated every Sunday in the classrooms.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Surfaces

We will practice the following procedures:

- Cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces such as sinks, toilets, light switches, door knobs, counter tops, table tops and chairs.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of check-in and pick-up areas.
- Cleaning products are non-toxic and odorless, making them safe for those with allergies.

Snack Time: Preschool only

To limit the opportunities for exposure, we will not serve snacks in the classroom. We also ask that families do not give their children snacks to bring into the classroom.

Items Brought From Home

We are asking families to refrain from bringing items from home to the classroom. We recognize that some of our children have need of a comfort toy and we will accommodate those needs.

Reporting Exposure

If a child, staff member, family member, or volunteer shows symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive, our contact tracing procedures will be implemented. The first step is to contact our Executive Administrator Dorothea Copus at dcopus@gracewired.com or 313.447.0663. Based on the guidance of the local health department, it will be determined whether to close individual classrooms, the duration of the closure, and next steps.

When communicating with families and staff about any COVID -19 cases, we will respect the privacy of individuals and not share health information of a specific person.

Returning to Children's After Experiencing Symptoms and/or Positive COVID -19 Tests

- Staff members, volunteers, and children may return to class if they have been completely free of all symptoms (without medication) for at least 72 hours. If they tested positive, they will need to show a negative test result as well.

- Staff members, volunteers, and children who were exposed to someone with the virus are expected to quarantine at home for 14 days and be symptom-free in order to return.

Disclaimer

We take the greatest care to safeguard our guests, however participation in services and events is voluntary and your health is your own responsibility. By attending, you are acknowledging the inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19. You and any guests voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and agree not to hold Grace Community Church or any of its elders, employees, agents, contractors or volunteers liable for any illness or injury.

If you have any further questions please contact La Kesia Patton, Director of Children's Ministries/NexGen Team Leader at 313.449.8074, or send an email to lpatton@gracewired.com