

COVID Safety Policy - Children's Ministry @ Hope Presbyterian Church

as of 7-27-2021*

1. **Come well-** Children and volunteers should attend ministry times at Hope when they are feeling well and not exhibiting any symptoms of illness, including, but not limited to, fever, unexplained rash, diarrhea, vomiting, exhaustion, loss of smell/taste, or nasal congestion in the past 24 hours. Parents and Volunteers at Hope should use the "Evaluating a Symptoms in a Child" Algorithm provided by the Virginia Department of Health. A detailed symptom list is provided there.
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/182/2020/08/Evaluating-Symptoms-in-a-Child.pdf>
2. **Wash hands-** All children should wash hands before and after children's ministry times, and during as needed. This is a parent led effort if we are in a space without a sink (ie: fellowship hall). Hand sanitizer is available as a secondary alternative.
3. **Spread out-** Children will be seated 3 feet apart or together in family groups with family groups seated 3 feet from other family groups whenever possible.
Air filter units on high- HEPA/UV air filters are used in the children's classrooms and turned to the high setting for the duration of the program with the doors of the room closed. If the children are in the fellowship hall or other non-classroom space, doors should be propped for circulation. Units may be returned to low in-between classroom use and doors opened.
4. **Wear masks indoors-** Face Masks and Shields are recommended, but not required for children age 5 and up during indoor activities.
5. **Adults too-** Adults (whether vaccinated or not) are strongly encouraged to wear masks while indoors. Face shields are acceptable while teaching closely, or a teacher may remove their mask while teaching if they are at a speaker safe distance (6 feet minimum) for the duration of their bible story.
6. **Sick isolated-** In the instance that a child begins to exhibit symptoms during a children's ministry event, that child will be isolated and the parent will be contacted immediately. This will be done for 'any' symptoms of unwellness, regardless of whether those symptoms match the COVID specific list or not.
7. **Rooms sanitized -** All tables, and door handles will be disinfected after use. When possible avoid using touch items for more than a small number (3-5) children at a time, including crayons, markers, glue, etc. Items that are not used for 7 days may be returned to the cabinet.
8. **Limited food and drink -** Food and snacks should be avoided during children's ministry unless they are prepackaged and the children can remain distanced strictly while eating. Nursery children exempted. Water bottles should be clearly labeled, or water should be provided in small one time use disposable cups.
9. **Games and Activities tailored-** Games should be modified to prevent children needing to touch one another (no "telephone" whispering ear-to-ear) or sit in close proximity (ie: duck duck goose) Ideas for how to modify games are provided to leaders.

*policy subject to change. Date stamp is provided for your reference.