



MARIETTA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

07.07.20

TITLE: COVID-19 MITIGATION GUIDELINES:

SUMMARY

A core component of Faith worship includes the ability of youth and children to congregate for the purpose of bible study, recreation, athletic events and personal instruction. This Policy provides guidelines that adhere to the State of Georgia Governor's Executive Orders and guidelines published by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) regarding youth camps, be they day or overnight, and local church sponsored activities for youth and children be they on campus or off campus.

The general guidelines apply to any youth activity be that overnight activities, on campus activities, and off campus activities.

Youth who have underlying health problems making them high risk for sickness with COVID-19 should not participate in congregate activities before receiving a reliable vaccine when one is available. The CDC lists many diseases that fall under high risk including obesity, asthma and immunosuppression. Parents should follow CDC guidelines for high risk underlying medical conditions. When in doubt, parents should consult with their child's private physician for advice on participation in group activities as the church cannot provide that advice.

GENERAL CDC GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ACTIVITIES OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN ANY LOCATION

A. SCREENING

Screen youth upon arrival to a congregate event by checking temperatures with a non-contact digital thermometer and asking if the child has been in contact within the last 14 days with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or someone in self-quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19. If temperature exceeds 100.4 or the answer to being around someone with or exposed to COVID-19 is yes, send them home.

(We currently are not taking temperatures until we receive the proper equipment to do so. We will have the proper thermometers in time for the Lake Weekends.)

B. MITIGATION

The CDC indicates that the “main” way the SARS-CoV-2 virus is spread is through person to person contact. Therefore, general guidelines that apply during any youth and children activity no matter the location are centered around:

1. Wash hands often with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% ethanol alcohol.
2. Avoid close contact and maintain at least six (6) feet of social distancing when possible.
3. Cover the nose and mouth with a cloth mask **when activities allow**.
4. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inner elbow area.
5. Clean and disinfect common surfaces often
6. Monitor your health, especially your temperature.

Church workers and Chaperones are to educate youth prior to the start of any congregate activities regarding compliance to these six general guidelines, and to provide regular monitoring and education during events and activities.

C. FOOD PROCEDURES

1. Use disposable service items when possible
2. Avoid communal dining when possible and observe social distancing of six feet if possible
3. Use prepackaged food or food brought from home when possible.
4. Avoid buffets
5. Use individual water bottles. If individual bottles are iced down in a single container, have one worker or chaperone distribute bottles to youth after proper hand washing technique. Avoid youth and children putting hands into container unless immediately after proper hand sanitation of youth.

D. SPORTING EQUIPMENT

When possible, use individual equipment such as bats, helmets, etc.

When using common equipment such as baseballs, softballs, volley balls, etc., remind the youth to not touch their face, eyes or mouth. Clean the equipment during the event often with soap and water or 60% ethanol alcohol (follow manufacturer’s recommendations for cleaning materials to avoid)

E. WATER ACTIVITIES

Water activities should promote social distancing to the extent possible and stagger the number of individuals in the pool at one time. Observe social distancing in lake activities.

ESSENTIAL PROCEDURES FOR OVERNIGHT ACTIVITIES:

1. Prior to leaving for an off campus event or overnight activity, youth will have temperature checks, COVID-19 symptom checks, and asked if they have been in contact with a suspected COVID-19 patient within the past 14 days. No youth will travel or be admitted to a an event if they cannot pass these three screens.
2. Any youth exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while at an event will be immediately separated from other youth and will leave the facility as soon as practical.
3. Parents dropping off or picking up youth will remain in their vehicles.
4. Provide hand sanitizer to students as soon as practical after drop off
5. Enforce social distancing between students whenever possible and/or practical.
6. Require students to wash or sanitize their hands during each group restroom break, snack break and meal break.
7. If transportation vehicles are used, require workers to sanitize each vehicle before and after use. Students will be required to wear masks while on the bus along with the driver and chaperones. Buses will be disinfected and sanitized in between uses.
8. Provide masks and personal protective equipment to chaperones
9. Staff, chaperones, and students will be screened each morning.
10. **Lodging:** Align beds nose to toe with six feet separation (1 student allowed in each bed). There may not be enough beds for each student at any given location, so air mattresses and sleeping bags might be required.
11. Staff, chaperones, and students must remain on site of the premises at all times, except for an emergency or an organized off-site activity by the staff.
12. Instruct youth on hand wash washing technique, and coughing or sneezing spread mitigation by using a tissue or elbows.
13. Instruct youth to wear cloth face masks or buffs when activities allow
14. Provide an isolation room for those exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 for students exposed to COVID-19, send them home.

