

MARIETTA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

07.02.1

TITLE: COVID-19 MITIGATION GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZED YOUTH AND CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

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 and children's activity be that day field trips, day camps, overnight camps, on campus activities, and off campus activities.

Youth and children 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 and children 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.

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 (only children over the age of 3)
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 and children 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 sanitization 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 CAMPS PER GEORGIA GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS:

1. Workers and Campers "shall" be tested for COVID-19 within twelve (12) days of an overnight camp and must have a negative test.
2. If workers or campers have a positive COVID-19 test, to participate in an overnight camp (a) at least ten days should have elapsed since the date symptoms of COVID-19 started, (b) symptoms must show progressive improvement and (c) no fever for at least seventy-two hours without fever-reducing medication.
3. Prior to leaving for overnight camp, youth and children 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 or child will travel or be admitted to a camp if they cannot pass these three screens.
4. Any youth or child exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while at overnight camp will be immediately separated from other youth or children and will leave the camp facility as soon as practical.
5. Parents dropping off or picking up youth or children will remain in their vehicles.
6. Provide hand sanitizer to Campers as soon as practical after drop off
7. Enforce social distancing between groups, prohibit Gatherings, and prohibit congregation among campers belonging to different groups.
8. Provide a separate space for each camper to store personal belongings while at camp
9. Prohibit use of camp facilities and equipment that are not able to be regularly sanitized
10. If swimming facilities are available, allow each group to swim once a day and stagger swimming times to avoid crowding
11. Require campers to wash or sanitize their hands during each group restroom break, snack break and meal break.
12. If transportation vehicles are used, require workers to sanitize each vehicle before and after use.
13. Provide masks and personal protective equipment to chaperones
14. Workers and campers will be screened both morning and evening
15. Bunk rooms will have an occupancy of 25 or less
16. Align beds nose to toe with six feet separation
17. Workers and campers must remain on the camp premises at all times, except for an emergency or an organized off-site activity by the camp.
18. Instruct youth and children on hand wash washing technique, and coughing or sneezing spread mitigation by using a tissue or elbows.
19. Instruct youth and children to wear cloth face masks when activities allow
20. Limit attendance to youth or children from the general area the camp is located in
21. Provide an isolation room for those exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19
22. For campers exposed to COVID-19, send them home.

23. Prior to leaving for overnight camp, church organizers should ensure the camp has met all State of Georgia Executive Orders for camp preparation including checking the water supply for bacteria if the water supply has been inactive for a long period. The camps requirements are detailed on pages 29-31 of the Executive Order.