

Children and Family Ministry Health and Safety Protocols

Updated: January 25, 2022

Children and Family Ministry (CFM) is committed to the health and security (spiritual, physical and emotional) of the children in our care. To ensure a safe environment for our children, the following protocols are in place, and we ask that all parents of children who attend our program adhere to these guidelines.

COVID-19 Specific Guidance

Per the [VA Governor's mandate on January 15th](#), we are no longer requiring masks to participate in Sunday School for leaders or participants.

Given the continued rise in Covid-19 cases, some leaders and children may still choose to wear a mask, so masks will continue to be available to those who request one. We will encourage a spirit of acceptance for each person's choice on this matter.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our children healthy while allowing us to gather for worship and fellowship safely each week.

Children's Ministry Details by Age-Range

Children Infants through Preschool

Sunday School is available for children ages birth through preschool in the Early Childhood Center in the Lower Narthex for the entirety of the service. Children in this age range move between 2-3 spaces and play outdoors as often as weather permits.

Drop-off

1. Children can be checked-in and dropped-off 10 minutes prior to the service start time.
2. Computer check-in is available for all registered attendees, and guest check-in is staff-assisted. This process allows children to receive their name badge and parents to receive their corresponding security sticker, which will be required for pick-up.
3. Parents will drop-off children in their classrooms.
4. Parents can decide whether or not their children who attend Sunday School will wear masks. We will have masks on hand if one is requested.
5. All children will be given foamy hand sanitizer upon entry to their classrooms throughout the morning.
6. If a child becomes ill during Sunday School he/she will be moved from the class with a CFM staff member who will contact the parents by text.
7. Doors are closed and locked after all children have entered.

Pick-up

1. Parents are expected to pick-up their children immediately after the service.
2. Parents will be admitted to the classroom hallway after presenting their security sticker to pick up their child(ren).
3. We ask that only one parent per child enters the hallways to prevent overcrowding in that area.

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Children in Kindergarten through 5th Grades

This age group will attend worship with their parents and be released for Sunday School during the announcements. Their classes are held in the TFCA Learning Center in the 6565 Office Bldg. adjacent to the church.

Once released from the main service into CFM care:

1. We will verify that we have gathered all registered children. If a child has not been checked-in, we ask that a parent accompany them to check-in to receive the name badge and security sticker.
2. Parents can decide whether or not their children who attend Sunday School will wear masks. We will have masks on hand if one is requested.
3. K-3rd grade children enter the Sunday School meeting space in the Learning Center where they will participate in a large group Worship and Greeting and then break into smaller, age-appropriate groups, in their classrooms.
4. 4th and 5th grade students begin and end in Room 108 with their leaders and do not attend the children's ministry large group worship time.
5. If a child becomes ill during Sunday School with any cold or flu-like symptoms, he/she will be immediately isolated and the parents will be texted to arrange for early pick-up.
6. Children will be picked-up by parents (or sibling older than 13) with the security sticker, in the Learning Center. If the sticker is lost, we will ask for an ID in order to release the child to an authorized adult.
 1. On Holy Communion Sundays the children will be returned to their parents in the service before Communion.

CFM Staff, Volunteer and Space Protocols

CFM staff and volunteers

1. Will complete a morning health check before coming to work/volunteer.
2. Each individual will use their own discretion on personal mask use.
3. Hand washing/sanitizing will be done on a regular basis throughout the morning.
4. CFM will maintain proper adult-child ratios consistent with CFM Supervisory Plans and DOMA guidelines to allow adequate space and supervision.

General Classroom Standards

1. We try to avoid activities that encourage close proximity and give extra space in our seating arrangements as we are able. If needed, we will arrange students in each classroom to provide adequate space and airflow.
2. We have removed classroom wall dividers to provide a larger classroom to give more air flow and more space to distance children.
3. Specifically, in the Early Childhood area, all surfaces, chairs, tables, etc. will be wiped down with sanitizing spray or wipes prior to children entering CFM space and after children have departed, including bathrooms.

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4. Toys will be cleaned between each child's use and any toy that is put into a child's mouth will be removed from play for the remainder of the service.
5. Snacks are sometimes offered during the classroom time. If so, we will hand sanitize before and after snacks are distributed.
6. If your child is inconsolable or ill at ease, we will update you by text and ask you to pick-up your child to avoid prolonged distress.