



Parents,

We've missed your kids and missed you! I know that these have been challenging days! There was never a Sunday that we did not want your families here. Our decisions were not easy to make, but they were made in the best interest of the health of our families and our leaders. It's hard to make decisions about something that is totally new, and NO ONE understands. Experts' opinions conflict with other experts' opinions. The only thing that I am 100% sure about is that I still don't have everything figured out.

School has been in session for about a month now. I reached out to schools and our local health department to dig a bit deeper into case counts. I am at a point where I feel confident that we can regather safely with common-sense guidelines put into place. We will not have unrealistic expectations. We will still create an atmosphere of love and a focus on Jesus. Our children's ministry leaders have been consulted, and we are all on the same page and ready to move forward. We also have the approval of our church board.

We do ask for your commitment in following our guidelines. I have seen the best in people and the worst in people during these days. If you have any complaints regarding guidelines, you can come directly to me. Our leaders are amazing. They are unpaid, and they serve because they love Jesus, and because they love our kids. Please take the time to thank them for being willing to come back and serve. We could not have a children's ministry without our leaders' dedication.

## Regathering Guidelines

### Schedule:

October 25<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> graders – 6<sup>th</sup> graders  
November 1<sup>st</sup> All ages (including nursery)

Immerse Groups are TBA

Sunday School is TBA (SS will be last to be implemented. Spaces are small and crowded)

### Guidelines for All ages:

- Please make OVERLY cautious decisions in regard to bringing your child with a cough and congestion symptoms on our campus. If your child has run a fever in the past 14 days or been exposed to someone who has had a positive Covid test please **keep your child home**.
- Masks are not required, but they are encouraged for older children.
- If your child gets the virus, please know that as your child returns to worship after following the physician's instructions, s/he will be welcomed back without hesitation.

We understand the unfair ways in which some kids are treated after having health issues (i.e. lice). This will not happen at WCN.

- We also want to be as transparent as possible with our minors' families. Please let our leaders know if your child has symptoms and is being tested AND has been on campus within the past 14 days. Also **IF** this occurs, do we...
  - have permission to share your child's name with others (if tested)?
  - have permission to share your child's test results?
  - have permission to share your child's name (if positive)?

\*\*\*We will be respectful of your right to privacy.
- Attendance and weekly seating arrangements will be documented so that we may alert parents in the following situations:
  - your child was on campus with a child who is being tested
  - your child was on campus with a child who has tested positive
  - your child was within 6ft of a child who has tested positive and **MUST** quarantine.
    - Because we can spread out the big kids in the main area, and the chairs will not be within 6 feet of each other. Kids 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade should not have to quarantine, if we have a positive case (per conversation with Health Dept on 9/28/20).
- Leaders temperatures will be checked at home before arriving on campus.
- Please check your child's temperature before bringing him/her on campus.
- Individual, prepackaged snacks will be served.
- If a child is feeling unwell during the service, we will immediately contact parents and remove the child from the group setting. We will have a fun "to go" bag ready for the child to play with as the child waits for his/her parent with an adult leader (outside, if possible, in clear view of another leader).
- Tables and chairs will be cleaned between each service.
- Toys that have been placed in children's mouths will be removed from the space immediately.
- Toys will be disinfected, during the week, prior to each gathering.

## **Guidelines: Age Specific-**

- **Kids and Littles-**
  - Check-in will be located at the front door of the D-Zone **ONLY**. Please maintain a 6ft distance while waiting to check your child in and out of the D-Zone.
    - **YOU MUST** sign your child in and out for every service. There are also 2 questions that you must answer every week:
      - My child has been fever free for 14 days (without medication)
      - My child has not been around anyone who has tested positive for Covid in the past 14 days.

- We are not trying to be “ugly.” This is simply another way of giving our families/leaders an additional level of comfort, as they drop their children off and/or serve in our children’s ministry.
    - As your child is dropped off, an adult leader will greet your child and make sure that s/he gets to the appropriate worship space. We want to limit the number of people who are in our space since we are keeping track of who is present. Those who are necessary for children’s ministry to be able to function well will be present. If your child is new or having a rough day OF COURSE an exception will be made. We understand the need for kids to have mamas and daddys close sometimes. If your child is okay, though, please let him/her come on in by themselves.
  - Individual baskets/bags of supplies will be available with your child’s name on them. These will be kept in the child’s cubbies.
- **Kids only-**
  - Worship, sermons, and station activities will be engaged in from the children’s chairs for right now. The chairs will be spread apart at least by 6 ft. Kids may choose chair, but children cannot change seats during that day’s service. We will be documenting where the kids are seated (picture taken)
  - Kids who cannot follow directions may need to sit with their parents during worship.
- **Littles only-**
  - Kids who cannot follow directions may need to sit with their parents during worship. We understand developmentally appropriate play. What our leaders will be discouraging is face-to-face play. We do not want the kids breathing in each other’s faces but playing together IS going to happen. Please understand this when you bring your child to worship. If you are uncomfortable with this, we apologize; but this setting may not be the right place for your child right now. They are little. They need to move, and they don’t have as much self-control as the bigger kids do. Your child is always welcome to worship with you in the sanctuary.
  - Music and games will be encouraged to keep kids moving
- **Tinies (nursery) only-**
  - Check-in:
    - All tinies must be checked in and out of every service. You must answer two questions on check-in form:
      - My child has been fever free for 14 days (without medication)
      - My child has not been around anyone who has tested positive for Covid in the past 14 days.
    - Please do not enter the nursery space unless your baby/toddler is having a really hard morning. We are limiting who our kids are around during

their time on campus. We will have more than enough hands available to provide care, but we don't want unnecessary individuals being crowded into our space. If your baby/toddler is having a rough time and needs you to stay for a few minutes, we do understand and want you to be present as they transition back to worship.

- Babies and toddlers, obviously, cannot be expected to socially distance themselves. Our nursery leaders will do their absolute best to keep our tinies distanced as much as possible; however, parents need to be aware that they will be in close proximity of each other. It is unavoidable for this age range of children. If you are uncomfortable with this, the nursery is probably not the best setting for your baby/toddler. You are always welcome to bring him/her to the sanctuary upstairs.
- Love and affection will be shown to this age group! Leaders will be encouraged to make smart choices such as not pointing their faces in the direction of the baby's face while talking to him/her. A lack of physical touch for this age group would cause more damage than good.

As a welcome back event, we will be hosting an **Outdoor Movie Night** for our families on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm (weather permitting). Bring lawn chairs and blankets! We will provide the popcorn!

I know this is a lot of information to take in at once. I am hopeful that between all the words you will hear our hearts... We love your kids. We love you. We love our leaders. We want what is best for everyone. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please reach out to me. I know that Mrs. Madison, Ms. Delilah, Mr. Warren, and Mrs. Rachel are eagerly awaiting to see your kids' beautiful faces in a few weeks.

*Pastor Mary*

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