

COVID-19 Response Guideline for Groups of Children and Youth at St. Stephen Lutheran Church,

All St. Stephen Lutheran Church children and youth summer programs must follow the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Summer Programming guidance. In accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) our church has put additional protocols in place to provide safe environments for students, families, and staff.

This is a rapidly changing situation. You can expect to be notified via email and posted notices of changes in protocols, updates to Exclusionary Guidance, and other important COVID-19 related information.

If you have questions at any time, please reach out to Melissa Whitman, 651-777-1107, for more information.

Protocols

Below are some of the protocol we have implemented to meet the needs of MDH and CDC recommendations for public health and safety. Please make note these protocols are ever changing, and may be modified regularly. We will communicate these changes with you.

- We have implemented a pre-screening process for all staff and students. The pre-screening is to be completed at home. This pre-screening involves taking your child's temperature as well as answering questions about your family's recent health.

Your child will stay with the same group of children all day.

- We have adapted many practices and protocols during the day when it comes to sanitizing, hand-washing, and physical distancing for safety.
- We will have consistent groups of 1 adult to every 9 children that will stay together, this number will change to 1 adult to every 4 children when offsite.

We will be washing hands with soap and water every hour of our program when hand washing is available. When hand washing is not available we will use baby wipes to clean our hands and alcohol based hand sanitizer to disinfect our hands.

- We will not be able to provide sunscreen to children nor will we be able to assist students with application of sunscreen unless it is a spray sunscreen. Please send sunscreen in a labeled ziplock bag and apply sunscreen before arriving.
- You will need to send a water bottle with your child.

Please note that these strategies may change if community transmission increases to the point where programming must be disrupted. As these strategies are in place for all of our children's and staff safety, we expect all of our families compliance with them.

Exclusionary Guidance

One of the most critical steps we can all take to reduce the spread of germs is to stay home when sick. COVID-19 is highly transmissible between people. As of June 4, 2020, MDH has identified these symptoms as reason for exclusion from programming. Should your child be experiencing any of these, they should stay quarantined at home and all family members should also quarantine while monitoring for symptoms for the next 14 days.

- New onset or worsening cough,
- Shortness of breath, OR
- Any following symptoms:
 - fever (100.4o F or higher);
 - chills;
 - muscle pain
 - headache;
 - sore throat;
 - new loss of taste or smell;
 - gastrointestinal issues, including vomiting or diarrhea.

Required Pre-screening

All families are required to conduct pre-screenings before coming to the program. At time of check-in, you will be asked if you have conducted the pre-screening. This will include taking your child's temperature and answering questions such as:

- Has your child experienced any of the exclusionary symptoms (listed above)?
- Has anyone in the home experienced the exclusionary symptoms (listed above)?

If these questions should change, we will contact you with the updates.

Showing symptoms at church

If your child should become symptomatic while participating in programming, you will receive a phone call and you will be required to arrange for your child to be picked up within 30 minutes.

What is social distancing?

The term "social distancing" refers to measures being taken to restrict where and when people can gather in order to stop or slow the spread of infectious disease. In general, 6 feet of separation is the distance that should be kept between people interacting within their community. This recommendation is most important in the setting of a large gathering where there is intermingling of people whose symptom status may be hard to monitor.

Small, closed groups that serve a consistent group of participants and staff offer the opportunity to more closely control the environment through monitoring of symptoms and adherence to policies for people who are ill.

Social distancing guidance during St. Stephen children and youth programming will support a 3-foot radius around each participant, resulting in a 6-foot total distance between any two people.

The concept of social distancing will be taught and reinforced regularly in programming. Because student and staff safety is of utmost importance, students who are not able to regularly maintain social distancing and safe practices, given appropriate support and skill building, may not be able to attend programming.

If you would like further information on any of the guidelines or protocols in place please visit: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html), or call the COVID-19 hotline at 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903.

Masks/Facial Coverings

Staff will be required to wear a mask. These are the guidelines provided by the MDH:

Staff members working in school-age programs are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings during the work day as much as possible.

These alternative masks are often homemade and should not be the medical-grade face masks such as surgical face masks or N95 respirators. Cloth masks are used to reduce the likelihood that the wearer will transmit the virus to other staff members or children.

MDH does not recommend that children attending child programs wear cloth face coverings to reduce the risk for transmission unless they can reliably wear, remove, and handle masks following CDC guidance throughout the day.

Drop Off/Pick Up procedure

A staff person will be waiting at the north end of the church, in front of the rain garden. We ask all families to park at that end of the church for drop off and pick up. To limit the amount of people congregating together we ask that families remain in their cars until directed by a staff person to sign their child into the program. We will allow one family at check in/check out at a time. During this process children who are signed in will wait safely on the north lawn.