

REOPENING CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

- **Children's Min in the Fall** (IN SEPTEMBER, 1ST - 6TH GRADES WILL BE WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS)
 - There will be classes offered at both services on Sunday mornings; we will start out with just offering these classes for children in 1st – 6th grades. Then, as we progress through the season, we will evaluate when to begin opening up classes for children who are in Kindergarten, Pre-K, and younger.
 - There will **not** be any midweek programs on Wednesday nights; however, the CM / SHAPE VIDEOS will continue into the fall! 😊

- **Safety Guidelines** (TO REMAIN SAFE AT COVENANT DURING THIS TRANSITION BACK, HERE ARE GUIDELINES WE WILL FOLLOW IN CM)
 - **HANDS:** Hand sanitizers will be positioned at all doors – children will need to use hand sanitizer prior to entering the CM Center; they will then be encouraged to wash their hands during their time.
 - **PHYSICAL (not SOCIAL) DISTANCE:** We will attempt to keep children at a safe distance from each other by utilizing the large gathering space and the larger classrooms (we will have the entire lower level available for children – so we should be able to spread out). We want the children to enjoy being together again while being aware of the need to stay safe. In saying that, please be aware that there may be times when children will play/interact in close proximity to each other.
 - **GAMES & SUPPLIES:**
 - While we are in the large gathering space in the Children Center, we will sing a song or two and do a few fun activities (like motions or “Go Noodle” videos). Also, we will play some games. We will try to choose games that do not require much contact – but I cannot guarantee that the children will *never* touch as part of a game/activity (for instance in a game like *Elbow Tag* or *Sharks & Minnows* there will be some contact – but hopefully minimal).
 - We will then break into smaller groups and divide into classrooms for lesson times. **I ask you to send along a pencil & crayons with your child (in a baggie with your child's name on it) so that they can use their own supplies.** If your child forgets his/her baggie, we will supply your child with a baggie to keep at church. We would do our best to ensure that the children do not share their supplies.
 - **MASKS:** All staff, volunteers, and children will wear a mask or face shield during the Sunday school hour. There may be times for a break from wearing masks – taking the opportunity for a 6-ft, 10-min “face-covering break” as permitted by PA Dept of Ed.
 - **TEMPERATURE:** To ensure all of the children are illness-free, we will be taking temperatures of the children after they have arrived. I would encourage you to take your child's temperature prior to coming to church (and, thus, not bringing your child to church that day should you find he/she has a fever). However, after getting started, we will take the temperatures of all the children present using a touchless forehead thermometer. If we get a reading of 100° or more, we will take that child to the Children Center Lobby to take the temperature again (using a thermometer that will give a more precise reading). If the temperature is still high, we will page that child's parent.
 - **SYMPTOMS:** Please do NOT send your children to Children's Ministries if they are exhibiting any of the following symptoms within the last 24 hours:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Vomiting/Diarrhea
 - Shortness of breath
 - Chills
 - Runny nose
 - Sore throat
 - Headache/muscle aches

- **Cleaning Procedures** (THE FACILITIES WILL BE CLEANED AND SANITIZED TO ENSURE SAFETY AS WELL)
 - The Children Center (any rooms / furniture / toys) will be cleaned before, between, and after services.
 - There will be a limited number of toys for the children to use/play with – they will be toys that are easily cleaned/disinfected (like plastic ones).
 - Volunteers will have a heightened awareness of surfaces being touched in order to take measures to clean everything well alongside our Facilities / Cleaning Teams.

- **Standard Operating Procedures** (THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN PLACE, BUT THEY ARE NOW EVEN MORE IMPORTANT)
 - **As always, only cleared/screened/approved volunteers are permitted in the Children Center.** Adults who are not cleared and approved to work with children may not enter the Children Center Gathering Space or classrooms. Those adults must remain in the lobby area and nursery corridor.
 - **We will only release children to those who have a Covenant Pick-Up / Claim Ticket.**
 - We do not release children to older siblings still in Children’s Ministries (in other words, only a sibling who is 7th grade and older may pick up a younger sibling).
 - We do not release children to relatives (e.g. grandparents) unless they have a Claim Ticket.

- **Final Thoughts:**
 - **Take note, Covenant takes the safety of the children seriously.** We want to create a place where all children feel welcomed and comfortable – ultimately so that they can hear the message of Jesus Christ and grow to know, love, and serve Him – worshiping him in this delightful community!
 - In saying this, if you feel uncomfortable about this plan and the steps Covenant is taking to care for your child, please contact Andrew Poe to share your concerns (andrewp@covenantdoylestown.org). **However, in the end, if you do not feel comfortable, remaining home is always an option.** While we all crave to come back together as a community – sharing in the joy of being together – you must do what you feel is best for your family during this time.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FLEXIBILITY AND SUPPORT!

As part of ministering to the weakest among us (your children), the Children’s Ministry at Covenant wants to take steps to safely build community – **not compromising on “doing ministry” but also not compromising on keeping everyone safe.**

These are not easy times for any of us...and we are all doing our best. So, I ask that you continue extending **GRACE** to us and everyone around you! We recognize that there are many thoughts and opinions about safety protocols, masks, and the virus itself. In saying that, I would strongly encourage you to model to your children how to walk in **CHRIST-LIKE LOVE** and **HUMILITY** during this time.

Phil. 2:3 / Col. 3:12 / Rom. 12:10