



Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope (Psalm 16).

Reopening Parishes for Youth Ministry

NO EARLIER THAN JULY 15

Utilizing the following procedures, we hope to start once more working with teenagers and families, journeying with them in person, to Jesus through His Church. Our priorities are spreading the Gospel and stopping the spread of any contagions harmful to students or families. Only those who are participating in the celebration of Mass during the weekday or on Sunday will be allowed to participate in youth ministry. If you have discerned that you are unable to participate in the celebration of Mass because you are health fragile, then you should not participate in youth ministry.

Note that those highlighted in **red** are **required**; those not highlighted are recommended.

Contents:

Prior to Engaging in Youth Ministry Events:

1. Signed Consent Forms
2. Cleaning/Sanitizing Common Space/Touch-Points
3. Event Temperature Checks
4. Covid-19 Testing

During Youth Ministry Events:

1. Social Distancing
2. No physical contact
3. Attendance Sheet/App to track participation.
4. Outdoors or in open public space is preferred
 - a. Indoor meetings require additional preventative steps for frequent sanitizing
5. Limit groups to no more than 10 teens/chaperones.

After Events of Ministry:

Follow CDC guidelines to report anyone who shows symptoms or results in a positive Covid-19 test after an event.

1. Notify local health officials if a student, chaperone or staff member results in a positive Covid-19 test after an event. Maintain confidentiality as required by law.
 - a. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>

Prior to Engaging in Youth Ministry Events:

Signed Consent Forms:

Each family should sign a consent form (one per child, one per volunteer or staff member) verifying that no one in household has any of the symptoms of Covid-19, and has had none over the last 2 weeks prior to attending the event(s).

- Only one signed consent form per child per year is required.
- If a minor attends an event without a consent form, a parent or guardian must be provided with an electronic copy of the consent form and give written permission for the child to participate.

Cleaning/Sanitizing Common Space/Touch-Points

- While surface spread of COVID-19 is less common than previously reported, continue to disinfect all common touch surfaces prior to the event.
 - This includes, but is not limited to: light switches, door knobs, chairs or tables in use, microphones/audio equipment, etc.
 - Use an approved CDC disinfectant: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
 - “It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, but we are still learning more about how this virus spreads.”
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>

During Youth Ministry Events:

Social Distancing:

- Students will continue to socially distance themselves at events, especially when indoors or in enclosed spaces. Appropriate distancing will be based on the most recent recommendations from the CDC, state, or local health departments. At the time of this publishing, the current recommended distance is 6 feet.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

No Physical Contact:

- Avoid physical contact with one another. This includes but is not limited to: hand shaking, hugging, fist bumps, high fives, or any games/activities where physical contact is required. This is believed to be the MAIN way the virus is spread, through close physical contact with an infected individual.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>

Attendance sheets/Apps:

- Staff are required to track attendance of all participants and acquire names and contact information (including contact information of parent/guardian in the case of minors). Proper care for participants requires that we know who is in attendance at all times. Individuals who have experienced symptoms associated with COVID-19 are asked not to attend until they have been symptom free for 48 hours or have had a negative COVID-19 test result.
 - Ask anyone to not return to ministry events until after he/she has received a negative test result for COVID-19 or have self-quarantined for 14 days.

Outdoor Event Locations:

- Most Youth Ministry activities can be done outdoors. Whether games/activities, talks or witnesses, small groups or prayer/worship, all these can be done outdoors where there is the lowest chance of contracting or spreading the virus.

- With social distancing and holding events outdoors solely, (provided weather cooperates), you may minimize the chance of contamination.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/visitors.html>

Indoor Events:

Face Coverings/Masks:

- Guidelines for masks will be based on the CDC, state, or local recommendations. As the CDC revises recommendations for the use of masks, these recommendations will be updated accordingly.
- When indoors, students and chaperones should wear face coverings especially in small classrooms or youth rooms where social distancing is difficult.
 - o <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

Necessary Sanitation:

- All common touch points should be sanitized before and after each meeting.
- If possible, utilize larger classrooms or parish hall to allow for adequate social distancing.
 - o <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
 - o <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- It is recommended that participants do not share materials (notebooks, writing implements) or personal items such as water bottles.
 - o Providing refreshments is not recommended.

Keep groups to no more than 10 to avoid crowded areas. This is more necessary indoors than outside.

Groups of 10 or Less:

- While not required, it is recommended that ministries limit small group gatherings to 10 people or less. Gathering in groupings of 30 or more can certainly make social distancing harder – especially in enclosed buildings.
- This restriction is consistent with the most recent guidelines for group gatherings issued by the Governor of the State of Florida and those put in place by the majority of Florida counties.
 - o https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/orders/2020/EO_20-91-compressed.pdf
 - o <https://frla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Florida-County-restrictions-5-18.pdf>

After Events of Ministry:

Reporting if a Student, Chaperone or Staff Member shows symptoms or results in a positive Covid-19 test after an event:

- Advise individuals to follow CDC reporting guidelines should a person become ill and tell him/her to call his/her doctor.
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Feedback/Adjustment:

- These recommendations will be reviewed and revised as necessary on a regular basis to ensure that they are adequate responses to changing conditions.
- Recommendations may be relaxed or increased based on the recommendations of federal, state, and local health departments.



Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19

The novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. **COVID-19 is extremely contagious** and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

The **[PARISH NAME]** (“Parish Name” or the “Parish”) has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, we **cannot guarantee** that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, **participation in [parish activity or event] could increase** your child(ren)’s or your risk of contracting COVID-19.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that my child(ren) and I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in **[parish activity or event]** at **Parish Name** and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at **Parish Name** may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, School employees, volunteers, and program participants and their families.

I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child(ren) or myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I or my child(ren) may experience or incur in connection with my child(ren)’s participation in **[parish activity or event]** at **Parish Name** (“Claims”). On my behalf, and on behalf of my children, I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless **Parish Name** and the Diocese of Orlando, and all of their current, former, and future agents, representatives, religious and employees and related entities (collectively, “the Diocese”) of and from the Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto. I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the Diocese, its employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after or participation in **[parish activity or event]**.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Print Name of Parent/Guardian

Name of Participant