

# COVID-19 guidance in Children's Ministries

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**Church Administration for 18 years, church consulting and security for 7 years.**

Have a COVID Task Force that makes policy and procedures recommendations to the governing body of your church to the approve plan.

Waivers (View sample Waiver) and Screening, online waivers and signup for attendance, temp checks are common, and use mobile check-in.

Follow Executive Order Number 72 p.12-13 religious services, 16-18 face coverings.

Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting

High touch surfaces daily or as turnover occurs, Low touch – normal schedule.

How often do different people touch surfaces? Disinfect accordingly.

Food containers, use disposable or sanitize reusables between use, no retouch on anything

Follow instructions of products, efficacy- how long does it work; 1 to 24 hours typical.

Here is a checklist for the nursery by Cheryl Markland.

- Clean every solid surface in your children's areas. Wipe cribs, mattresses, chairs, tables, centers, counters and door frames with a sanitizing formula. Wash all crib sheets, blankets and teachers' smocks.
- Periodically clean and sanitize all carpets and rugs in your preschool and children's areas.
- Eliminate toy boxes and minimize the number of available classroom toys to assist with disinfection during and after teaching sessions. Discard all cloth or stuffed animals that cannot be easily sanitized each week. Store toys away from children and only bring out a limited number each week for play. Only use the number of toys that volunteers can reasonably be expected to clean after each session.
- Consider creating individual bags of supplies for each child: scissors, markers, glue sticks, etc. to minimize sharing.
- Stock diaper changing stations with sanitizer to clean diaper changing surfaces after each diaper change, gloves, wipes, etc. Be sure all nursery leaders know how to change a diaper with universal sanitation guidelines. Permanently discard any cloth covering currently on diaper changing mattress so that plastic covering can be sanitized between each diaper change.
- Post reminders for handwashing and diaper changing procedures.
- Post a schedule for marking the times that toys and tables are cleaned with a block for signing off.
- Create training videos or written lists for how to hygienically change a diaper, clean toys, etc. Require leaders to sign off that they have watched the training before being allowed to serve.
- Provide ways to clean or wash both children and leaders' hands when running water is not available in the room by using either an alcohol-based gel or a spray bottle of soapy water and a spray bottle of rinse water.

- Purchase spray bottles and preferred cleaning solutions. Make plans to provide freshly made cleaner each week.
- Purchase several no-touch thermometers.
- Plan for learning centers in the preschool area to spread out children in the classroom.
- Review or create safety and security policies to be used in both preschool and children's areas.
- Begin to think about what policies you will have in place as families will return to church.

HVAC – increase fresh air if possible, filters, UVC in duct devices, EPA approved and efficiency? HVAC codes require newer systems to have fresh air min standards, have it checked, add min outside air if feasible.

Resources for additional information

<https://www.sbcv.org/coronavirusresponse/>

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Ffaith-based.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Ffaith-based.html)

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

<https://www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19.html>

<https://youtu.be/xhS-AhCiAfM>

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19>

**<https://www.sbcv.org/zoomcalls/>**  
**The Keys to Reopening Children's Ministry**  
*with Bill Emeott*