



St. John's
Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Covid-19 Preparedness Plan

St. John's Lutheran Church is first and foremost committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for our students, volunteers, and staff. We have developed a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Executive Orders 20-48 and 20-74 issued by Governor Walz. Our ultimate goal is to mitigate the potential transmission of COVID-19 within our church and community. This will require full cooperation and understanding among our staff, families, volunteers, and students to ensure we maintain a safe and healthy environment.

The following plan will be a **requirement** that will be enforced and is fully supported by St. John's Lutheran Church leadership and staff.

This plan has been implemented using a combination of our knowledge and from these resources: Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), federal OSHA standards related to COVID-19, and mandates through the Department of Human Services Licensing Division.

1. Hand washing and healthy hygiene
2. Cleaning and materials handling
3. Arrival and departure
4. Plans for identifying and excluding sick staff, volunteers, or children
5. Social distancing and minimizing exposure
6. Face coverings
7. Workplace ventilation
8. Outdoor Space
9. Meals, snacks, drinking fountains
10. Communication and training about this plan

1. Hand washing and healthy hygiene

- Students, volunteers, and staff will practice proper hand washing routines including washing hands upon arrival, before and after eating, after blowing noses, coughing, or sneezing, and after playing outside.
- If it is not an option to wash with soap and water, a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be used.

- When using hand sanitizer, children will be supervised and sanitizer will be placed in an inaccessible location.

2. Cleaning and materials

- Classroom surfaces will be washed and sanitized before and after each gathering.
- St. John's custodial staff will also be assisting with the cleaning of rooms utilized by Children, Youth, and Family gatherings.
- Frequent cleaning of high-touch areas such as doorknobs, light switches, phones, etc.
- Minimizing the use of shared supplies. Students will have their own box of supplies in their own space.
- Each classroom will have separate supplies for their own room and will not be shared between classrooms.
- If persons suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 have been in the program, we will implement the following procedures for cleaning and disinfecting.
 - The affected classroom will be closed for use for 2 days for cleaning and disinfecting as per CDC and MDH guidelines.
 - All equipment, toys, and items the person may have been in contact with will be cleaned and disinfected.

3. Arrival and departure

- We ask that parents limit their time in dropping off students to classrooms and practice safe social distancing including the wearing of masks and using hand sanitizer.

Arrival:

- When we are in the building, families will proceed to the Education Hallway, where their student's temperature will be taken. Parents and students are expected to wear a face-mask per the MN Mask Mandate and current MDH & CDC recommendations.
- When we are outside the building, families will proceed to the west lawn, near the bell tower where their student's temperature will be taken. Parents and students are expected to wear a face-mask per the MN Mask Mandate and current MDH & CDC recommendations.

Departure:

- There will be a staggered release of classes to reduce congestion in the hallway or at pick-up location on the west lawn, near the bell tower.

4. Plans for identifying and excluding sick staff or children

- Daily health checks will be conducted for staff, volunteers, and children including temperature checks.
- St. John's staff has been informed to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, including taking their temperature at the beginning of each shift.
- We require that any child or staff that determines they have had close contact outside of St. John's programming with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms while following CDC guidelines for home isolation. This includes exposure to any person up to 48 hours prior to that person developing COVID-19 symptoms. Please **notify us immediately** of exposure.

- If your child develops a temperature while at St. John's, a parent will be called and they will rest in an area separate from others until they are picked up. Your child and any immediate household members will **not be able to attend St. John's programming until they are fever-free for 48 hours without medication.**
- St. John's staff will stay up-to-date on state and local health department notices regarding the spread of COVID-19 in our area and may make sudden adjustments. This will be immediately communicated to families and staff.
- Local health officials, staff, and families will be notified immediately of any possible case of COVID-19 at St. John's. Individual health information will remain confidential.
- Any students being sent home are encouraged to contact their health provider for further guidance. For more information, visit the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 webpage (health.mn.us.gov), or call the COVID-19 hotline at 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903.

Keep in mind if any of these symptoms seem apparent or worsen throughout the day, please keep your student home or you may be called to pick up your student.

- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Headache
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of smell or taste

Requirements for returning to St. John's Programming

A 14-day quarantine will be required in the event that your child or anyone in your family experiences COVID-19 symptoms, with or without official clinical evaluation and/or a positive test. However, a fever itself, with no additional symptoms, does not require the 14-day quarantine, but instead, your child needs to be fever-free for 48 hours without medication.

In addition, pre-existing conditions, such as a chronic asthmatic cough do not exclude children or staff from care. If you are concerned about any pre-existing conditions, please let us know. We have trust in your family and staff that this policy will be followed.

5. Social distancing practices

- Each class will consist of a consistent group of children and staff who stay together throughout the day.
- Students will have designated spaces at tables and on the carpet during class to promote social distancing.
- There will be no sharing of food or water bottles.

6. Face coverings

- Masks will be made available to staff and volunteers
- Following along with the MDH requirement, students under the age of 5 will NOT be required to wear a mask. But it is highly encouraged in shared spaces.

- Staff, volunteers, parents, and students (5+) will be required to wear a face mask according to current MDH & CDC guidelines.

7. Ventilation

- We will keep the doors propped open during our busy times; such as drop-off and pick-up.
- Outdoor activities are encouraged.

8. Outdoor Spaces

- As weather permits, we will be meeting outdoors.
- All classes will continue to follow social distancing recommendations during outdoor activities
- Classes will not be able to make use of the playground, as we are reserving that space only for Creation Kids Preschool.

9. Meals, snacks, drinking fountains

- Drinking fountains will be off-limits. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle if needed. **Please label their water bottles.**
- No snacks will be provided.

10. Communication and training about this plan

- This plan was revised on August 12, 2020, and will be reviewed and updated as needed to meet the required guidelines.
- This information has been communicated with all Children, Youth, and Family staff.
- Staff, volunteers, and families will be kept up to date on any changes to this plan.