

BETHANY GREEN LAKE - Covid Safety Plan for FM Regathering - Fall '21

(This will be updated as new information and guidelines become available.)

The “WHY” of our Safety Plan

Bethany Community Church represents a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and ideas. Everyone may come with different ideas and feelings about what in-person gatherings should look like. It is our desire to balance both the hope of returning to a sense of normalcy and being responsible in meeting different families where they are in their comfort zones.

Because we are a church whose mission is to invite people to God, community and wholeness, we're going to consider others before ourselves and exercise much grace as we regather safely in person again.

We are committed to take extra steps and even embrace discomfort in order to create Family Ministry environments that make Bethany a place where kids and students belong. It is our great hope as we do so that we will further Love, Inspire, and Equip our families to follow Jesus closely.

We want to balance our sense of responsibility for safety with great hope; knowing that these are temporary measures, and our ministry will not look like this forever. Our context of having children in close contact with adults and each other for more than 15 minutes at a time means we need to have measures in place that honor our children and families.

The “GOAL” of our Safety Plan

Our goal is to regather together safely in a way that **meets/exceeds** CDC standards, Washington State School Reopening Guidelines, and Washington State Childcare Guidelines.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/FallGuidanceK-12.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/sher/standards/index.htm>

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/licensed-provider>

By prioritizing safety, we will earn the trust of our church family and we will take steps toward a “new normal” of in-person gatherings. We will create environments where adults, students, and kids can gather in person while maintaining safe, social distancing guidelines.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

MASKS:

- Masks will be worn by all staff and volunteers.
- All guests are required to wear masks.
- All children in our care ages 2 and up will be required to wear masks. (CDC recommendations)
- Birth – under 2 years old should not wear masks
- *Youth Ministry (6th - 12th grade) participants (including staff and volunteers) are required to wear masks inside (in keeping with the public schools present approach to the fall), masks optional for outside events.*

PRACTICING PHYSICAL DISTANCING (as able):

- Kids will be seated on spots that are separated by 3 ft of distance during the majority of programming (as we are able).

APPROACH TO VACCINATION:

Vaccinations are STRONGLY recommended for staff/volunteers. Our Children's Ministry/Nursery rooms (and indoor Youth Ministry groups) will be masked spaces for all staff/volunteers (and children of appropriate ages) as a way to continue to serve each other and prioritize safety.

FACILITIES:

- Touchless hand sanitizer stations located throughout the facility.
- Frequent hand washing will be encouraged of children and staff.
- Appropriate doors and windows will be open so that they don't have to be touched.
- The ventilation system has been upgraded with UV-C hydrogen peroxide HVAC units
- We are creating a "Kids Welcome and Wellness" team to help clean and disinfect common areas in-between services, as well as support check-in stations.
- Refer parents to "Guidelines for Illness" posters if needed

CHECK IN PROCEDURES:

- Families will check in each child at our check-in stations.
- Trained greeters from our Welcome and Wellness team will be there to help control traffic, greet people, and support the check in process.
- Only one adult family member will be permitted for pick-up/drop-off to increase social distancing.
- Check-in will include an attestation statement that affirms that the child has been well,

POSTED ATTESTATION STATEMENT: A symptom check, which must be completed for all program events. Based on your responses, your child will either be approved to come to participate or not. By checking your child in, you agree that the answers to all of the following are TRUE. This helps us provide a safe environment for all. (If you cannot agree to these statements, please do not have your child participate today.)

- I understand that a mask will be worn at all times when inside church buildings except when eating/drinking.
- In the last 10 days, my child has NOT experienced: Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, cough, recent loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, muscle or body aches, headache, unusual fatigue, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
- My child has NOT been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- My child has NOT been told by a public health or medical professional to self-monitor, self-isolate or self-quarantine because of concerns about COVID-19 infection in the past 14 days
- My child has NOT had a positive COVID-19 test for active virus in the past 10 days