

COVID-19 GUIDE TO RE-GATHERING NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES



As churches begin to prepare for people to return to church campuses around the state, it is exciting to anticipate the laughter of voices as they enter the church building once again. With careful planning, strategic thinking, and lots of love and care, we will navigate this transition while making it safe and inviting for kids, teenagers, and families.

The one question that is asked most frequently is...

Is it safe for our next generation ministries to gather again?

The goal of this resource is to help you think through some questions that will help build your systems to make them stronger and safer during this time of crisis.



GENERAL THOUGHTS FOR NEXT GEN MINISTRY

1. Collaborate with church leadership in regard to the phase your church is in.
2. When will be the right time to add next generation ministry programming back to the schedule?
3. Pre-register children to limit how many are in any room at a time.
 - a. Some churches are starting with a five-child limit in each room at first.
4. Do you limit leaders in the next generation ministry areas to those who do not have pre-existing conditions and/or are over 65 years old?
5. Have extra volunteers to help in the preschool ministry where some children may suffer from separation anxiety after only being with parents for a long time.



CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AS YOU PLAN TO RE-GATHER NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY AREAS



1. Facility Preparation

- a. What steps can you take to make sure you have a balanced environment that is sterile and inviting?
- b. Have you cleaned all preschool, kids, and student ministry areas?
 - i. Deep clean in every room, bathroom and hallways
- c. Are you able to purchase the correct supplies?
 - i. Gloves
 - ii. Hand Sanitizer
 - iii. Toilet Paper
 - iv. Lysol Wipes
 - v. Masks
 - vi. Hand Sanitizer Stations
- d. Have you calculated total capacity of your building and classrooms in regard to social distancing guidelines?



2. Registration/Check-in & Check-out

- a. What are your procedures for registering children as they come to the check-in areas?
 - i. Pre-register
 - ii. Same staffer registering guests on check-in device
 - iii. Only 1 parent allowed to drop off, pick up
 - iv. Limit number of entrances and exits
 - v. Staff receive children at checkpoint and take to classroom
- b. Will you perform temperature checks before allowing preschool, children, and youth to enter classroom?
- c. What procedures will you put in place for gathering personal items for each child to limit the spread of germs?



3. Communication with Families

- a. Will you encourage families to do the following?
 - i. Keep their child home if they are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms
 - ii. Educate them on social distancing behavior:
 1. No hugs
 2. No handshakes or high-fives
 3. Respect the 6 feet rule
 4. Encourage to wear a mask
- b. Have you communicated new policies and procedures to parents and guests before they arrive?
- c. Where will you post notifications?
 - i. Please notify the ministry leader as soon as a child that was in the ministry is experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms.
 - ii. Hand washing policies
 - iii. Diaper changing policies



4. Ministry Program Training

- a. Take a volunteer staff inventory to see who will be returning to their positions.
- b. What steps can you take to make sure you have a balanced environment that is sterile and inviting? (music playing, pleasant smelling, smiling faces)
- c. Have you evaluated how you will handle social distancing guidelines for small groups, children worship or student worship?
 - i. Space Issues
 - ii. Seating Capacity
- d. Review social distancing policies with leaders
 - i. No hugs, high fives, handshakes
 - ii. Stay home if they are experiencing any cold or flu-like symptoms
 - iii. Respect the 6 feet rule
 - iv. Will you require your workers to wear a mask?
 - v. What will the diapering policies for your church?
- e. Do you need to reconfigure the classroom?
- f. Do you have a plan in place if you have to combine classes if teachers are out?
- g. Have one leader assigned to handle the check-in system. That leader is the only one that handles touch screens and sign-in sheets, not the families of students or children.
- h. Evaluate the following miscellaneous issues:
 - i. Bathroom and water fountain breaks
 - ii. Snacks
 1. Will you provide them?
 2. Will families have to provide their own?