

## **Covid -19 Guidelines for Ministry to Children** **(A child is defined as birth – 17 years of age)**

At Kiokee, we desire to be good stewards of the children and students that God allows us to minister to each week. (*Psalm 127:3; Matthew 19:14*) One of our Core Values is Safety and Security and with that in mind, we have chosen to be proactive and intentional in providing the safest and most secure environment for children of all ages at Kiokee during COVID-19.

In order to facilitate ministry to children during the COVID-19 outbreak, we have developed “best safe practices” based on recommendations from the CDC, Georgia Department of Public Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics to mitigate risk of infection from COVID-19 in classroom settings. The following guidelines will be in effect for classes from birth-17 yrs. of age and are subject to change as new information is obtained from the CDC or the Georgia Department of Public Health. These guidelines will also be adhered to by those working with children at the church Pavilion, the 5:20 Building, the Homeschool Association and the Lily Ministry.

### **Health and Hygiene:**

- Please do not bring your children if they or anyone in your family has been directly exposed to COVID-19

- Please do not bring your children if they or anyone in your family are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever of 100 degrees or higher or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) or any other illness.

- Adults who meet the criteria for higher risk or severe illness as defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention are required to Shelter in Place and may not serve as a leader/volunteer in Preschool, Children's, or Student Ministry. Adult leaders/volunteers who are age 60 or older may serve with children as long as they do not fall under the required Shelter in Place guidelines. (*See Shelter in Place attachment – P 10 of 49 of the State of Georgia Executive Order*)

- All children and leaders/volunteers will have their temperatures checked and will wash or sanitize their hands upon arrival to their ministry area.
- Children will not use shared supplies such as pencils, crayons, markers, scissors and glue sticks. Each child will be permitted to bring their own supplies from home or the church will provide individual classroom supplies labeled with each child's name.
- Children are asked not to bring bags of any type or personal belongings at this time. If a child has personal belongings they will be stored in separate cubbies or areas of a classroom or large group area. (*book bags, tote bags, purses, jackets*)
- Bathroom facilities are limited to 1child/family at a time.
- There will be a condensed number of toys and resources in each room to limit the spread of germs.
- Snacks will be served by a single leader/volunteer who is wearing a mask and gloves. No large group meals for children will be served.
- There will be no take-homes for children during this time.

### **Social Distancing**

- Social Distancing for adult leaders/volunteers and all parents of children remains at 6 feet apart at all times.
- Social Distancing for children remains at 6 feet apart at all times.
- Designated spots 6 feet apart have been clearly marked for children to be seated facing forward in each classroom or large group area.
- Parents and adult leaders/volunteers are asked not to congregate before the start of a ministry time or at the end of a ministry time.

## **Use of Masks:**

- All leaders/ volunteers will be wearing masks unless they are 6 feet away from children. Leaders/volunteers who are 6 feet away from children can teach without a mask only while instructing.
- Masks are recommended for children from 2 yrs. – 17 yrs. of age. Parents are asked to send their child with a mask and instruct them on how to wear one.
- Children ages 2 – 17 yrs. of age who are not wearing masks must be distanced at 6 feet to maintain proper distancing per CDC guidelines.
- Masks are required during transition times if children cannot be distanced at 6 feet apart.

## **Registration**

- We will be reducing class sizes to better facilitate social distancing. The maximum number of children allowed in each room will be posted outside the classroom and these numbers must be adhered to at all times. There will be no combining of classrooms while Covid guidelines are in effect.
- Preschool 1- 4 Classes (Birth – 24 Months) will tentatively be available at the beginning of October.
- Preschool (2 & 3 yr. olds) and Children's (4 yrs. – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) Sunday School classes will be available beginning September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.
- Student Ministry (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) Sunday School classes will be available beginning September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 and 10:30 a.m.
- Advanced reservations are required for Preschool and Children's Ministry classes. Reservations can be made through our church website.

## Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- Children's temperatures will be taken prior to them entering a ministry area. Parents are asked not to leave until it has been determined that their child's fever is less than 100 degrees.
- We will not be using our computer check in stations. Volunteers will check children in for SS and give each family/child a nametag and security card.
- Only 1 parent/guardian will be allowed for check-in, drop off and pick up. It is recommended that parents wear a mask during drop off and pick up.
- Unnecessary visitors such as extended family members or friends will be asked not to enter a Preschool, Children's, or Student Ministry area.
- Drop Off:
  - Birth – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade parents should enter through...*we will have a map that has designated areas by age.*
- Pick Up:
  - Preschool parents will pick up at the classroom
  - 4 and 5 year olds will be picked up from the front double door entrance to A107
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be picked up at the entrance to the Chapel
- Please practice social distancing (6 ft) during drop off and pick up.
- Please follow our signage, floor markings and directions from volunteers to limit overcrowding in certain areas. Please help us by avoiding congregation in common areas inside.
- We may limit the number of parents near classrooms or large group areas during drop off and pick up time to allow for proper distancing. Please be patient.
- Students will go directly into their assigned classrooms.

## **Protocol for Exposure to Covid or Positive Cases of Covid**

We will develop a protocol for health and wellness of children.

We will have standard form letters that will be sent to notify families when we have possible Covid exposures or positive cases of Covid.

## **Leader/Volunteer Agreement**

All leaders/volunteers will be asked to sign an agreement stating they will follow the Covid guidelines set by the church and will adhere to them to the best of their ability.



**Kiokee**  
**Baptist Church**

## **COVID-19 Commitment**

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, commit to adhere to the  
COVID-19 policies, procedures, and guidelines to the best of my  
ability. I have read and will comply with everything in the COVID-  
19 Guidelines for Ministry to Children provided by  
Kiokee Baptist Church.*

*Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_*

Please sign and turn in to a Ministerial Staff Member