

Nursery and Childcare Ministry Infectious Diseases Policy

It is the desire of this church to meet the spiritual needs of each individual who comes to the church seeking worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. While all persons who wish to participate will be welcomed, we have instituted precautions as established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to minimize the risk of spread of communicable diseases.

There will be no exceptions to this policy. For those whose diagnosis allows for participation, this will be affected with discretion and sensitivity. For those whose diagnosis requires isolation, reasonable accommodations will be attempted.

Standard Precautions

The CDC has established a set of standard precautions for handling blood or bodily fluids to minimize the risk of spreading infectious diseases. These are adapted for children's ministry areas at this church.

These guidelines are to be followed by any workers, whether paid or volunteer, with actual or potential exposure to blood and bodily fluids. Bodily fluids include saliva, spit, urine, feces, nasal discharge, discharge from open skin sores, sweat, and tears.

1. Gloves must be worn before touching blood and bodily fluids, non-intact skin, cuts, and open sores, and handling items and surfaces soiled with blood and bodily fluids.
2. Hands and skin surfaces should be washed immediately after exposure to blood and bodily fluids, and after gloves are removed. Hand-washing with germicidal soap is essential to prevent spread of infection, and germicidal soap is provided in the church lavatories.
3. The cleaning of bodily fluids on surfaces shall be done while wearing gloves. The surface on which a spill occurred shall be cleaned with germicidal disinfectant found in the children's ministry closet. No worker who has a weeping skin sore shall handle any situation involving potential contact with blood or bodily fluids.
4. All contaminated cleanup materials, including gloves, shall be disposed of in sealed plastic trash bags placed in a larger trash bag out of reach of children.
5. All wounds on workers or children that have not formed a scab must be covered.
6. Toys obviously soiled by saliva should be washed in a germicidal solution after each use. All toys used by children should ideally be cleaned at the end of the group usage (for example, nursery toys should be cleaned after each worship service.)
7. Toileting children with poor hygiene should be done by an adult who is wearing gloves. Gloves should be disposed of immediately in a covered container.

Church Precautions

In addition to the standard precautions, this church has instituted the following precautionary measures:

1. Children with uncovered weeping sores or aggressive biting behaviors will be returned to their parents or guardians.
2. Adult caregivers with open sores on their hands shall wear protective latex gloves.

3. Adult caregivers shall wear gloves when exposed to bodily fluids and follow standard precautions as established.
4. Items soiled by bodily fluids shall be placed in sealed plastic bags.
5. Children with uncovered weeping sores or aggressive biting behaviors will be returned to their parents or guardians.
6. Adult caregivers with open sores on their hands shall wear protective latex gloves.
7. Adult caregivers shall wear gloves when exposed to bodily fluids and follow standard precautions as the church's infectious disease policy establishes.
8. Items soiled by bodily fluids shall be placed in sealed plastic bags.
9. Signs will be posted stating the policy regarding children who show signs of illness.
10. All individuals involved in food preparation and service will begin by thoroughly washing their hands. Food preparers and servers are encouraged to use gloves.
11. Children's ministry workers who have contagious illnesses or potentially contagious illnesses should refrain from children's ministry work

Attendance

Parents will be encouraged to voluntarily notify the church if their child has a chronic communicable disease. A decision on attendance shall be based on the following factors:

1. The risk of transmission of the disease to others.
2. The health risk to the particular individual.
3. The ability to make reasonable accommodations to reduce health risks to the person and others.

This decision will be made based on the best medical/public health information available at the time. A summary of the person's health problems and care received, as well as his or her physician's recommendations, must be released to the church to assist in the attendance decision. The church staff, as needed on a case-by-case basis, will seek appropriate medical/public health/legal consultation, including making contact with the individual's personal physician. Medical records may be requested if needed.

Privacy

The church is sensitive to the privacy interests of children and their parents. The church will share health information about a child with children's ministry workers and church staff on a "need to know" basis. The church will also comply with any federal, state, or local law that requires reporting of health information to regulatory authorities and will otherwise release information as required by law.

Logistics

1. Signs will be posted in the nursery and preschool classrooms to guide children's ministry workers, parents, and guardians regarding children who show signs of illness. The wording of the signs will read:

Parents:

Children's ministry workers consider the well-being of your child a sacred trust. In the best interest of children and workers, we request that individuals with contagious illnesses or potentially contagious illnesses, whether they are children or ministry workers, refrain from participating in children's ministry area at the church.

Symptoms include:

- Fever above 100 degrees taken orally (must be normal for 24 hours before participating)
 - Discharge from ears or eyes
 - Skin lesions that blister
 - Undiagnosed rashes
 - Vomiting or diarrhea lasting several hours during the past 24 hours
 - Excessive signs of cold, tiredness, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing, or coughing—any highly contagious disease such as chicken pox or pink eye
2. Children's ministry workers, paid staff, maintenance workers, and volunteers will be educated on disease-control measures, and shall use them routinely, especially when handling blood or bodily fluids.
 3. A location will be designated for materials related to cleanup of blood or bodily fluids and will include:
 - First Aid Kit
 - First Response Kit
 - Caution Sign or Cone
 4. Additional supplies will be made available throughout the building, including: plastic trash bags, twist-ties, covered trash cans, latex gloves, changing table covers, toilet-seat covers, and other supplies.

Ongoing Administration

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the children's ministry staff to ensure that it is based on currently reliable information regarding infectious diseases. It may be modified at any time based on new findings from medical and health agencies. The children's ministry staff will oversee the implementation of this policy.