

Safety Protocols for In-Person Meetings for Youth Ministry

The first responsibility of the leaders of the Youth Ministry at St. Columbkil is to maintain a safe environment for the teens in our care. We are committed to following the safety regulations and guidelines provided by Federal, State and County government agencies as well as those of the Catholic Church as communicated by the Diocese of Allentown, including any quarantine required after traveling to states/regions/locales named by government agencies, see <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>.

Before any in-person youth group meetings can take place, safety protocols to minimize the risk to any individual must be adopted and shared with all members. They must be complied with to maintain the safety of all involved. Individuals not in compliance will be asked to leave the meeting immediately and may not return until they have reviewed this document again and reaffirmed their willingness to participate in a safe manner.

Attending in person meetings

Attendance at meetings during our current circumstances is optional. While meeting in-person during the pandemic, attendance at in-person meetings is at the discretion of the teen's family and should be based on their level of comfort. We will continue to LIVE stream our meetings so that those not comfortable attending in-person meetings, will still be able to "be with us"!

As detailed below, youth group meetings will make use of 6-foot social distancing.

Please note that, we will try to host all **in-person meetings outdoors, weather permitting.**

Before attending a meeting, it is the responsibility of the teen's parent to ensure compliance with the following 4 guidelines:

1. IF THE TEEN IS SICK:

Check the temperature of every teen attending the meeting ***before you leave for the youth group meeting*** and check for symptoms that may indicate COVID-19 infection.

Per the most recent guidance from the CDC, signs and symptoms of COVID-19 *may* include:

- fever*
- feeling feverish
- cough
- shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- chills/repeated shaking with chills
- general soreness or achiness of muscles
- headache
- sore throat
- diarrhea
- loss of appetite
- loss of taste
- loss of smell

If the teen has any of these symptoms:

- Stay home.
- Contact your healthcare provider.
- Follow CDC guidance to [prevent the spread of disease](#) in your home and community.

*For the purpose of this guidance, fever is defined as subjective fever (feeling feverish) or a measured temperature of 100.4 F (38 C) or higher in the past 24 hours.

If the teen will not be tested for COVID-19 to determine if he or she is still contagious, the teen can attend an in-person meeting after these three things have happened:

- No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers), AND
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when the cough or shortness of breath have improved), AND
- At least 7 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.

If the teen will be tested for COVID-19 to determine if he or she is still contagious, the teen can attend an in-person meeting after these three things have happened:

- He or she no longer has a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers), AND
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when the cough or shortness of breath have improved), AND
- The teen received two negative COVID-19 tests in a row, 24 hours apart.

2. IF THE TEEN IS NOT SICK BUT A FAMILY MEMBER IS SICK WITH CONFIRMED COVID- 19 OR THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS, REMAIN HOME.

3. IF THE TEEN OR FAMILY MEMBER HAD CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WITH CONFIRMED COVID-19, REMAIN HOME.

4. IF YOU BECOME SICK AT A YOUTH GROUP MEETING, LEAVE THE MEETING IMMEDIATELY.

****If you become ill at the Youth Group Meeting with any of the symptoms mentioned in item 1 above, a parent must pick the teen up and leave the meeting immediately. Call your healthcare provider. In all cases, contact the**

Director of Youth Ministry, to notify him or her that the teen will NOT be attending the meeting due to illness or suspected illness. The information will be considered confidential.

Guidelines for Reducing Risk of Exposure During Youth Group Meetings

Please note the Youth Ministry leadership reserves the right to change any or all of this guidance.

1. Teens and Parents must sign the [Waiver Form](#) before attending any youth group meeting or event. This waiver form only needs to be signed once. Teens will not be allowed to attend meetings/events unless this form is electronically signed by both the teen and the parent.
2. All teens are required to have a medical form on file. Medical forms are good for one year (September 2020 to August 2021) and it is the responsibility of the parent to hand a new one in if insurance should change.
3. Upon arrival to the meeting, teen's will be asked to sign in on the provided sign in sheet indicating and understanding of and compliance with the guidelines put in place by the Core Team.
4. A Core Team Member will take your temperature before entering the meeting space and you will be asked to sanitize your hands.
5. Cloth face coverings are required for all teens, Leaders and Parents always. If teens are outside and seated 6 ft apart, face masks are *optional*. The Core team will help you decide when you may take your mask off outside.
6. Practice social distancing, keeping at least 6 feet between you and others.
7. Only one teen at a time may use the Church restroom.
8. Limit all gatherings, activities, and games to no more than 20 teens, whether indoors or outdoors and maintain social distancing for all gatherings.
Teens must sign up before the event.

9. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before coming to the meeting and prior to leaving or as soon as you get home. Wash again if you have blown your nose, coughed, or sneezed into your hands.

10. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol.

11. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

12. Avoid “touch” greetings (handshakes, fist bumps, hugs, high-fives, etc). **Air hugs, air high fives, etc are encouraged where there is no contact. A Youth Group “hello” will be determined at the first meeting.**

13. Avoid sharing tools, pens, or devices such as phones. Disinfect any items that must be shared before each use.

14. Disinfect reusable supplies and equipment.

If any of these items should change or be revised, a new copy will be sent out immediately. If we should go back to being in the Yellow or Red phase, Youth Ministry will continue in a virtual platform.

Peace and blessings,
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