

## Policy on Groups Meeting at Nativity of Our Lord

August 3, 2020

### Intro

Most any and all in-person events here at Nativity of Our Lord will continue to be suspended due to COVID-19, **except for those most essential to our sacramental and spiritual ministry and educational mission**, as prioritized in our [parish mission statement](#).

- See Fr. Patrick Hipwell's [From The Hip](#) column from August 9, 2020.

Our first priority is to protect our ability to continue to safely host liturgies and classes on campus, and at this time that means limiting our scope of on-campus events until at least December 31, 2020. We plan to review for 2021 in mid-December 2020.

### Summary

- There will be **no activities** hosted at Nativity School. All groups are encouraged to meet virtually. We do not encourage groups to meet offsite.
- Nativity **will not host any indoor events with more than 10 people** in attendance (outside of our liturgies, school, and faith formation programming).
- Nativity **will not host any outdoor events with more than 25 people** in attendance (outside of our liturgies, school, and faith formation programming).

Any proposed event must prove to be:

- Sufficiently necessary to the mission, and
- Adhere to guidelines stated here.

### Planning Events

- Event registration forms must be received at the parish office at least **three weeks before the planned** meeting. Meetings are not approved if the group is not contacted by the parish office.
- Any group that wishes to meet at Nativity will be **assigned a staff person** to work directly with them to be properly trained on the Preparedness Plan and understand their critical role in ensuring a healthy environment for all in attendance.

### COVID-19 Symptoms and Exposure

- **All COVID-19 positive persons**, those who are symptomatic, and those living with them, **may not participate** in programs **until after they have self-quarantined** as per CDC guidelines.
- **At-risk persons** and those with preexisting health conditions **should stay home** and not participate in parish activities.

## Events Categories

- **Static** – A structured situation such as a talk or presentation. Attendees arrive, sit and listen or pray, and then depart. This would also include faith formation classes for children and youth provided all participants except the catechist face the same direction.
- **Static+** – Gathering in a larger group and then breaking into small groups. Examples would be bible studies or small groups where participants are facing and talking towards each other, as well as all events held outdoors.
- **Dynamic** – An unstructured situation such as a social gathering that involves high levels of movement throughout one or more indoor spaces.

Nativity **will not host any Dynamic events** and **will limit Static+** events at this time, even those adhering to the above limits on number of attendees.

## Face Coverings and Distancing

Note: these requirements apply for both indoor and outdoor events, on- or off-campus.

- **Face masks are required** for all participants over the age of 5 during indoor activities.
  - The Minnesota Department of Health provides further information on this requirement and legitimate exemptions.
  - As a Nativity policy, if six feet distancing cannot be maintained, face masks are required on our campus outside.
- **Facemasks should not be worn by children under age 2**, per Minnesota Executive Order 20-81 and CDC guidelines.
- A minimum of **6 feet of social distancing** should be maintained during both indoor and outdoor activities.
  - Do not allow lines or crowds to form near the restroom without maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from other people.
    - It may be helpful to post signs or markers.
- **Physical contact** between individuals **should be avoided** (i.e. handshakes, hugs).

## Disinfecting and Cleaning Measures

- Following each event or activity, all occupied areas must be **cleaned and disinfected** by the staff representative or a designated proxy upon the meeting's conclusion.
- Personal belongings (phones, writing utensils, et al.) **should not be shared**.

## Personal hygiene

All participants should...

- **Disinfect their hands upon entering the church** building with provided hand sanitizer.
- **Wash their hands frequently** with soap and water (especially before and after eating).
  - Use hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.
- **Avoid touching** their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

## Mandatory Reporting

If anyone experiences symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive following attendance at an activity, they should notify the parish office immediately.

## Other requirements

- **Attendance should be taken** at all activities and submitted to the assigned staff person in case of the need for contact tracing by the Minnesota Department of Health, including...
  - Full name
  - Phone number
- **Box lunch only:** No food may be served other than a pre-packaged “box lunch” that is prepared offsite. All utensils, plates, and napkins should be provided by caterer.
- **No group travel** is allowed by Nativity groups. If there is an offsite event, each person must transport himself or herself.

## What ifs

- **If in-person classes at Nativity School are suspended** due to an outbreak of COVID-19, **activities and events will also be suspended** until the Pastor, in consultation with the Archdiocese, determines it is safe to resume.
- If the local public school district in which the parish resides closes an individual school or all schools due to an outbreak of COVID-19, **the Pastor, in consultation with the Archdiocese, will determine** whether in-person activities and events will be temporarily suspended.

## Youth

**All activities involving children and youth** must follow Office of Ministerial Standards and Safe Environment child-protection protocols, as usual.