



CHILDREN & FAMILIES
manchesterumc

Manchester UMC's 2022 Sunday School Safety Protocols

What You Can Expect:

In order to keep our children and adults safe, our Sunday school team has established safety protocols that we will follow during our time together. It is important to our team that you are aware of these protocols and can make decisions that are right for your family.

General Safety Protocols:

- All children will be dropped-off and picked-up in Manchester UMC's lower level Children's area by a parent/guardian.
- Children and volunteers will be required to wash their hands with soap and water in the bathroom OR use hand sanitizer prior to entering their designated classroom.
- Parents/Guardians are asked not to enter the Sunday school classroom in order to limit the number of people actively in the classroom.
- Children and volunteers are required to perform a daily covid self-screening before participating in programming on Sunday morning (*screening questions can be found below*).
- Due to limited volunteers, our students will be separated by the following age groups: 2's-4's, Kindergarten – 3rd grade, and 4th/5th grade. As we get more volunteers, we plan to separate our students back into single age-group classes.
- Volunteers and children will remain with their designated classroom throughout the entirety of the program unless to hear the Good Shepherd story and/or a bathroom break is required.
- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces in the classroom.
- Prior to Sunday school on Sunday mornings, all classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Seating in Sunday school classrooms will be spaced out as much as possible.
- If a volunteer or child displays one or more symptoms of COVID-19 or reports a positive COVID test, the person will immediately be isolated and sent home. They may return only when they have doctor's note confirming a negative test and are 48 hours symptom free OR have completed a 10-day quarantine.
- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, all affected areas and supplies will be disinfected immediately.
- Parent/Guardian(s) will be notified of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in their child's classroom.
- Parent/Guardian(s) will be notified about changes to our safety protocols and procedures based on future conditions, and health official recommendations/requirements.

Inside Protocols:

- Children ages 3 and older & all, parents/guardians, and volunteers are required to wear masks while in public spaces and classrooms.
- Children and volunteers may use single-stall restrooms. If children need to use a multi-stall restroom, the number of children in the restroom will not exceed the number of stalls.

Outside Protocols:

- Masks are optional outdoors and safe physical distancing is strongly encouraged.

IMPORTANT: Every Sunday morning, please answer these self-screening questions before entering the building.

COVID-19 Screening Questions:

1. **Have you received a positive COVID-19 test result within the last 10 days?**
2. **Have you experienced COVID-19 symptoms within the last 10 days?**
3. **Have you had a “close contact” (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more over 24 hours) with someone who has COVID-19 within the last 10 days?**

If your answer is “**NO**” to **ALL** of screening questions above, you may enter the building and participate.

If your answer is “**YES**” to **ANY** of the above questions, you may **NOT** enter a church building or attend in-person activities, **UNLESS AT LEAST ONE** of the below four statements applies to you:

1. I am fully vaccinated; I have not tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days; and I have not experienced symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 10 days.
2. I received a negative COVID-19 test result at least 5 days **AFTER** my COVID-19 symptoms began.
3. I received a negative COVID-19 test result at least 5 days **AFTER** I tested positive for COVID-19.
4. I received a negative COVID-19 test result at least 5 days **AFTER** having a close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

If you suspect that your child is ill, has COVID-19, has been exposed to COVID-19 or is displaying one or more symptoms of COVID-19, please keep them home until they have a confirmed negative COVID test. Failure to do this will risk exposing other children and volunteers to COVID-19. Please don't take a chance, it's not worth the risk to everyone involved.

How You Can Help

Your family plays an important role in ensuring the health and safety of all children and volunteers at Manchester UMC. In order for this to be a successful event, we need the support and cooperation of parents/guardians, grandparents, children, siblings, etc.

- Please show grace, patience and understanding with Manchester UMC volunteers and other families as we all adjust to a new way of being together. We recognize that change can be uncomfortable, but these changes are designed to ensure we can provide the very best experience for your child and others during this pandemic.
- Be prepared to immediately pick-up your child if they become ill or display one or more symptoms of COVID-19 during Sunday school.
- Please model an enthusiastic and positive attitude for your child when it comes to these new safety protocols. How we as adults react in the presence of children significantly impacts their reactions, emotions and behaviors. The more positive you are, the more comfortable your child is likely to be here at Sunday school.
- Recognize that this pandemic creates a fluid/changing environment and we will respond and adapt as necessary to comply with the recommendations and requirements of the CDC, local authorities and church leaders.
- Keep lines of communication open. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me by phone or email. Our entire team wants to do everything possible to make Sunday school as smooth as possible and your feedback helps us know how things are going.

Please direct any questions about the 2022 Sunday School Safety Protocols to the Children and Family Ministry Team.