

COVID Youth Ministry Policies

The guidance document has been designed for use in conjunction with the overall policy of Trinity Lutheran Church and School and local public health directives. While the focus of this policy is on maintaining healthy operational measures for youth ministry at Trinity we will be making every effort to uphold a welcoming and caring environment for our students, families, volunteers and staff. Though we will attempt to take proactive preventative measures to ensure safety and cleanliness, we acknowledge that risk of exposure is possible and may result in temporary dismissal or omission from ministry events. All public activities, including participation here at Trinity Lutheran Roselle, remain at your own risk. We strive to work closely with our families, local government, and national government to safeguard and protect our children and youth as closely as possible, trusting ultimately in the Almighty God who guards our steps. We know that the Lord is our refuge and strength, an “ever present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

MINISTRY STAFF AND VOLUNTEER SCREENING:

Ministry staff and volunteer leaders will do everything in their power to follow protocols requested by the overall church and/or local government to ensure safety of others, including wearing personal protective equipment and being screened prior to entering the premises or working with any families. Staff and volunteers will be reminded regularly to remain home if they demonstrate any indication of illness.

SIZING OF GROUPS:

Every attempt will be made to keep groups at a gathering size recommended by local governmental guidelines. At this time that means no gathering of over 50 people in one designated location. While grouped in smaller clusters, students will be expected to respect social distancing with their small groups and not mingle with other students.

ON-SITE FACILITIES:

Staff will strive to work within only one location, limiting their movements in the Community Center Facilities. Bathrooms will be the only accessible part of the Community Center building to students during this period of outdoor high school worship. (In event of rain or bad weather Worship will be cancelled). Before entering the bathroom all students, volunteers, and staff must hand sanitize before entering and exiting the bathroom. Proper handwashing is encouraged and expected. After the event all bathrooms will be properly cleaned and sanitized by staff. If possible students will be encouraged to use bathrooms sparingly and only in case of emergencies.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOL:

We will make every effort to closely follow local public health officials when establishing our health and safety protocols in order to keep students and families safe. Our staff, volunteers, and students will be expected to adhere to the following protocols:

- All staff, volunteers, and students will self evaluate their health before arriving.
- All staff, volunteers, and students temperature will be taken upon arrival to any event
- All staff, volunteers, and students will be expected to wear a facial covering
- All staff, volunteers, and students will be expected to maintain proper social distancing
- All staff, volunteers, and students will be encouraged to hand sanitize and wash hands as often as possible.

SELF SCREENING FOR SYMPTOMS:

In order for students to attend our Outdoor High School Worship we encourage them and families to self monitor for symptoms before attending. Staff, parents and guardians, and students must not attend the program if they are sick, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold. Please check with the CDC for an exhaustive list of symptoms.

Symptoms to look for include but are not limited to:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- Headache
- General feeling of unwell
- Unexplained rashes
- Vomiting or diarrhea currently or within the last 24 hours

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES:

Open communication with families, students, leaders, and staff regarding the enhancement and seriousness of health and safety measures will be encouraged. New policies will be shared for everyone's information and so that all are aware of expectations. Our goal is to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible.

STAFF TRAINING:

We will continue to assess our ministries in collaboration with local and national health directives. We will ensure that our staff and volunteer leaders are trained and equipped to serve confidently, with joy and excitement, while still maintaining our high standards of health, safety, and other operational measures. Training will focus on how to properly clean spaces and equipment, how to safely conduct health screenings, how to minimize and manage physical distancing challenges, and what to do in the case that someone becomes sick.

DROP OFF & PICK UP PROCEDURES:

Our leadership teams will work together to develop procedures that support physical distancing and separate groups as best as possible. The following procedures will be in place to help ensure the safety of everyone involved.

- All High School Worship will remain outdoors for the time being.
- Parents will drop off student in Community Center Parking Lot. Student will be encouraged to bring their own lawn chair for the outdoor worship event. Parents will be encouraged not to get out of their cars.
- Upon arrival Students will have their temperature taken by a masked volunteer.
- Students will be expected to wear a mask.
- Students will be assigned a marked area on the grass for outdoor worship. They are to maintain the recommended 6ft social distancing from people as much as possible.
- Upon Pick Up students will meet their parents at the car. Parents are encouraged to stay in the car.

EVENT STRUCTURE:

We will diligently assess each outdoor worship event and consider ways to maintain high levels of safety. Outdoor worship will proceed as follows:

- Outdoor worship will Test Run on July 19th from 6:00-7:30pm at Community Center
- Students arrive and are screened upon arrival (Temperature Taken)
- Students will have a socially distant marked spot to sit on the grass
- DCE Erica Davies and Vicar Mark Novacek will provide worship, message, and upfront interactive games (no contact required)
- Following worship, students will be given time in their small groups to discuss the message. Each small group will be expected to maintain 6ft social distance and wear masks to maintain the safety of everyone involved.
- Students will be released and picked up. Parents encouraged to remain in cars.

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

Students Name: _____

I acknowledge the contagious nature of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 and that the CDC recommends safe gatherings and practicing social distancing. I further acknowledge that Trinity Lutheran Church has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19. I consent that Trinity Lutheran Church can not guarantee that you will not become infected with the Coronavirus/Covid-19. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to and/or infected by the Coronavirus/COVID-19. I consent that I am attending this function at my own risk and will not hold Trinity Lutheran Church liable in anyway. I acknowledge that I must comply with all set procedures to reduce the spread while attending my High School Worship.

I attest that:

- I am not experiencing any symptom of illness such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.
- I have not traveled internationally within the last 14 days.
- I have not traveled to a highly impacted area within the United States of America in the last 14 days.
- I do not believe I have been exposed to someone with a suspected and/or confirmed case of the Coronavirus/COVID-19.
- I have not been diagnosed with Coronavirus/Covid-19 and not yet cleared as non contagious by state or local public health authorities.

Students Signature: _____

Parent Signature (If Student is under 18): _____