



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REOPEN PLAN:

The following write-up shares the preparedness plan and measures Hicks UMC Church is taking to ensure our Children's Ministry environments are providing a safe and impactful experience for those attending our in-person Children's Church beginning **August 30th, 2020**.

## General Guidelines

- Mask usage is required to enter/leave the building and any time children, parents or volunteers travel in the Children's Ministry classroom hallways.
- Once they arrive at their designated classroom, they are then free to remove their masks if they feel comfortable and have your blessing. If parents would like their child to continue wearing their mask, please tell the Check-In Volunteer so the Classroom Leader can enforce this for you.
- Classroom Volunteers will not be required to wear a mask to teach, but will be offered a single use one if they would like.
- Check-In Volunteers will be required to wear a mask the entire time they serve at the Check-In station. Check-In will begin at 9:40am on Sunday mornings.
- Hand sanitizer, disposable masks, and mask lanyards will be available at the Check-In station.
- Temperatures of all people entering the Children's Ministry environment will be taken, including volunteers. Only those with temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will be allowed to enter the Children's Ministry environment. If a parent, child, or volunteer has a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, they will not be able to stay at church.

- Families will be asked to only have one adult enter the Children's Ministry area for drop off.
- Each classroom will provide social distancing seating of the required 6 feet apart and be limited to 50% occupancy. Once capacity is reached, children will be invited to attend the main service with their family.
- Occupancy levels for our current classrooms are:
  - Preschool/Kindergarten class occupancy is 6 seating stations with no more than 8 total children and one Classroom Leader. Only siblings are permitted to share a seating station.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> grade class occupancy is 6 seating stations with no more than 8 total children and one Classroom Leader. Only siblings are permitted to share a seating station.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class occupancy is 8 seating stations with no more than 12 total children and one Classroom Leader. Only siblings are permitted to share a seating station.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class is class occupancy is 12 seating stations with no more than 16 total children and one Classroom Leader. Only siblings are permitted to share a seating station.
- No reservations are needed, however, if occupancy capacity is reached in a Children's Ministry classroom, children will be invited to attend the main service with their family.
- Classrooms will not intermingle. Once a child is checked in, that is the classroom they will stay in until they are picked up.
- Boys and girls should bring their own Bibles to class.
- All children will be asked to use hand sanitizer before entering their classrooms. Hand sanitizer will be available at the Check-In Station and either mounted outside the door of all classrooms (where possible) or available inside each classroom.
- All classroom supplies (pencils, crayons, etc.) have been separated from others' and each child will receive their own supply box in an individually labeled container for only them to use each time they attend Children's Church.
- Children's Ministry will follow the church-wide safe sanctuary guidelines for security to ensure all kids entering the Children's Ministry environment are safe.

## **Staggered Dismissal**

- Classroom dismissal will be staggered at the end of the worship time to avoid high traffic in the stairwell and hallways. Children will again be required to wear their masks to move through the building at time of dismissal.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom will be dismissed first at the beginning of the final worship song. Children in this class will be led to the Sanctuary through the back staircase by their Classroom Leader where they will rejoin their parents in the pews.
- After the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class has rejoined their parents, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class will be dismissed and seated on one of the designated chairs where they will wait for their parents to pick them up in the Overflow area.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> grade class will be dismissed shortly after the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class to avoid high traffic in the stairwell and hallway. The first grade class will be dismissed and seated on one of the designated chairs where they will wait for their parents to pick them up in the Overflow area.
- The Preschool/Kindergarten class will remain in their classroom where the same parent that checked them in at drop-off will come back to pick them up. Our Check-In volunteer will bring each child out to their parent.

## **Restrooms**

- Restroom monitoring will be enforced to avoid overcrowding.
- Restroom traffic will be monitored to and from restrooms by our Check-In Station Volunteer.
- The number of children allowed in restrooms at the same time will be limited to one.
- Hands will be washed/sanitized upon returning to the classroom.
- We will continue to release digital Children's Ministry content for those wishing to remain watching church online at home.