

Episcopal Diocese of NC Children’s Programing Protocols for Reopening

This document outlines guidelines for programming for children preschool- 5th grade. Youth activities, events, and programs fall under the same guidelines as those for adults. Please refer to the [Diocesan Reopening Plan](#) for guidance and specifics for those who are in grades 6-12.

Allow for 42 square feet of space per individual when determining your maximum enrollment for indoor or outdoor activities through Stage 3. In addition to this requirement, the following chart outlines the maximum numbers allowed at activities, regardless of the size of your spaces.

Please note that concurrent activities **are** allowed if the groups do not share space. Churches may have multiple groups participating in programming at the same time (to accommodate different ages, or to allow for distancing) if the groups have separate entrances and exits. An indoor space **may** be utilized by a second group after a space of 6 hours.

↓As of March 7th

Diocesan Stages for Reopening:	STAGE ONE-B	STAGE TWO <i>County positivity rate must also be below 6.5% and trending downwards.</i>	STAGE TWO-B	STAGE THREE	STAGE FOUR
Outdoor Maximum # of Individuals	15 children 3 adults	22 children 3 adults	26 children 4 adults	35 children 5 adults	No restriction
Indoor Maximum # of Individuals	Not allowed	10 children 2 adults	22 children 3 adults	26 children 4 adults	No restriction
Refer to the Diocesan handbook for Safe Church practices for additional information on determining proper ratios for adults and children at all gatherings.					

Additional Guidelines

Mask wearing at all times is required for all participants, indoors and outdoors.

All programming must require pre-registration to facilitate **contact tracing** if it becomes necessary. Participants, staff, and all volunteers should complete a health questionnaire at each meeting time. [Here is an example](#). Churches must have a plan for how they will isolate and care for a child who becomes sick while on campus. Sample plans may be found [here](#).

A plan for **enhanced cleaning procedures** should be in place. Cleaning and sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces must take place after every gathering. Materials (toys, art supplies, etc.) should not be

shared between children whenever possible. Frequently touched surfaces on playground equipment should be sanitized daily. Hand sanitizer should be available at entrances and exits and frequently utilized by children and adults.

Meals and snacks should not be part of programming during Stage 2. Meals or snacks that are brought from participants' homes may be eaten outdoors only beginning in Stage 3.

Nursery services (infant and early childhood care) should not be provided through Stage 2. Consider designating a private area for changing, feedings, etc. for caregivers to utilize if need be. Nursery services may begin in Stage 3, following SafeChurch guidelines.

Singing and robust physical activities that promote heavy breathing are not allowed through Stage 2. Outdoor singing and outdoor physical activities are permitted beginning in Stage 3.