

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 and outdoor activities through Stage 3. In addition to this requirement, the chart below outlines the maximum numbers allowed at activities, regardless of the size of your space.

Children and adult leaders may gather in spaces that allow for 6 feet of distance per individual. Capacity should never exceed 30% of your fire code or more than the maximum number listed in the chart below. When determining your maximum capacity, use the number that is the lesser of the 2 numbers, 30% or the max number found in the chart, and make certain each person is allotted 42 square feet of space. If your congregation has a plan that differs greatly from this plan, please submit your plan to Bishop Hodges-Copple’s office for approval.

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

The Safe Church Best Practices offers ratios of children to adults as seen below:

(We highly recommend that you have additional adults, especially with the youngest children to assist them with distancing. We suggest having an additional adult with twos and threes, making the ratio 1 adult per 2 children aged 2 and 3, with 2 minimum adults.)

1 adult per 6 children age 5 and younger, with 2 adults minimum

1 adult per 8 children age 6 years and older, with 2 adults for minimum.

↓As of April 20th

Diocesan Stages for Reopening:	STAGE ONE-B	STAGE TWO/2B <i>County positivity rate must also be below 6.5% and trending downwards.</i>	STAGE THREE	STAGE FOUR
Outdoor Maximum # of Individuals	15 children 3 adults	34 children 6 adults	51 children 9 adults	No restriction
Indoor Maximum # of Individuals	Not allowed	22 children 3 adults	34 children 6 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. For additional information on **congregational singing**, please see the [Updated Music Guidelines](#). If you desire to offer a program that differs greatly, please submit your plan to Bishop Hodges-Copple's office for approval.