

Illinois Conference Youth + Young Adult Department
COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

Fellow Leader, It is true that our world feels out of our control right now. In times like these, it is more important than ever to stay rooted and grounded in your community and in your faith. We encourage you to reach out to God, remaining confident in Him. Ultimately, our faith is not in the things of this world but is in Jesus Christ. Join us in claiming the promise in Paul's message to the Christians in Rome:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” [Romans 15:13 ESV].

This recommendation plan refers to Junior Youth Ministries (Adventurers, Pathfinders), Senior Youth (approximately ages 14-18), Master Guide clubs, leaders of these Youth Ministries and attendees at meetings of these ministries.

This guide does not supersede local and state suggestions. Please continually review and update as needed to be in agreement with those changes.

EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

Each Adventurer, Pathfinder, Junior Youth or Senior Youth, Staff or visitor should self-screen prior to attending a meeting. If possible, temperature checks can be added as they arrive on site. Anyone with symptoms (see below) or if they live with someone with symptoms should not attend any meetings.

Symptoms are defined as:

- Fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle or body aches
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea

Note: Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

As you meet with your team to develop a gathering plan, remember that it should be reviewed and approved by your local church board before resuming in-person meetings. Your plan and list of symptoms are to be emailed to staff and parents/guardians so that all individuals are informed.

It is recommended that you have signs placed at trafficked areas in your building with preventive measures and list of symptoms.

Keep in mind that each of the 11 regions has mitigating practices when they are deemed as a hot spot (when they meet resurgence criteria). It is important to consult with you pastor as information is made available and check the State of Illinois Department of Public Health.

MITIGATION

A) All Junior or Senior Youth, Staff or any attendee should use a facial covering and maintain appropriate physical distancing with the following exceptions:

1. If the person has a disability that prevents them for comfortably wearing or removing a face covering.
2. Anyone who is deaf, mute or uses facial and mouth movements as part of communication.
3. If the person has been advised by a medical professional that wearing a face coving may pose a risk to such individual.
4. Anyone who has trouble breathing.

B) A list of all who attend should be maintained for at least two weeks.

C) Single-use or dedicated use items should be used for each club member.

D) Any equipment/supplies should be distributed to individual work areas (when possible) prior to meetings and sanitized or disposed of after each meeting. Club Ministries members who are continually working on honors/crafts/etc. should have or be given a tote or similar to keep their supplies and equipment personal.

E) Camping

1. Individual sleeping areas should be at 6ft apart, making sure campers are sleeping head to toe and wearing mask when not on their bed or mat.
2. Likewise, group activities should keep to 6ft physical distancing. During outdoor functions, when physical distancing is difficult, mask should be worn.
3. Individual mess kits, cooking supplies, work areas and camping equipment should be provided for each pathfinder completing for outdoor camping skills.
4. Meals: Food should not be placed in a central area to be individually handled or taken. Meals should be eaten with physical distancing in place.

FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT USAGE

- A) MEETING SPACES: Consider having club meetings and gatherings in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors.
- B) ACCESS: If possible, there should be separate entrance and exit doors to building and rooms (if multiple doors are present).
- C) PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) UTILIZATION: In addition to the use of facial coverings, disposable gloves should be made available for those who wish to use them (Note: this does not take the place of frequent handwashing). Also, extra facial coverings should be made available for those who do not have access to one or forgot.
- D) PHYSICAL DISTANCING: Space seating at least 6ft apart. Staff members should do their best to maintain distancing during all discussion and presentations. This applies to both indoor and outdoor meetings.
- E) CLUB MINISTRIES: For some requirements it may seem difficult to maintain social distancing, such as marching and drilling, club/unit formations, etc. In these scenarios, adjustments can be made in order to fulfill requirements. If in need of further guidance, please contact the Youth Department.
- F) HYGIENE: Before the start of a meeting all attendees should wash their hands with soap and warm water upon entry to the facility and hand sanitizer(s) should be made available. (Note: Hand sanitizer does not take the place of frequent hand washing). Continue to follow your local church guidelines regarding room capacities and proper use.
- G) SANITATION: After meetings, staff should wipe down frequently touched surfaces with approved sanitizer. Remember high contact areas and equipment used. Any equipment used that cannot be sanitized should be placed in isolation for seven days.

SYMPTOMS PRESENT PLAN

Symptom Monitoring

- A) All Junior/Senior Youth, Staff and other attendees will be directed to self-monitor for symptoms in themselves or family members.
- B) Parents/Guardians of Junior/Senior Youth will be contacted if their child exhibits symptoms during a meeting.

C) If any individual displays symptoms, the meeting should come to an end. All attendees should be physically distanced, until they leave the facility and/or they are picked up by their parent/guardian.

Exposure Response Procedure

A) The lead pastor of the church, leaders of the respective department/ministry/etc., and members (youth, Adventurer parents/guardians, Pathfinders and parents/guardians) should be notified via one or more of the following methods: Voice Call/Message, Text, Email or other forms of contact. The name of the individual exhibiting symptoms SHOULD NOT be made known.

B) Members and staff should seek the guidance of their Healthcare Provider if exposure has occurred or if symptoms are present.

C) It is recommended that the club not meet in person for at least 14 days.

Post-Exposure Recovery Plan

A) After exposure, members should only begin to meet again with approval of the Church Pastor and in consultation with parents/guardians and department/ministry staff.

B) All equipment and supplies should be sanitized or isolated for seven days.

JOURNEY PLAN EVALUATION

See the link below to download the guide which can help you and your staff prepare and plan for how to reopen with purpose and mission. The pdf document includes question and space for fill-in answers.

Reevaluate often. It is the new norm. There will be changes over time and new developments. Be adaptable.

REMEMBER AND REFLECT: RECALL WHAT WORKED

It's important to remember where you've been, while remembering that where you've been doesn't have to be where you're going. Recall what has worked, and what hasn't. There has been no greater time to change-up what you're doing.

RESET: GETTING IN THE APPROPRIATE LANE

As we move forward, let's ask ourselves and our teams what lane suits your church at this specific time (or in your current phase). You may need to reset expectations while also being sure you are staying true to your ministry's mission and core values. This is about getting in the best lane that works for your body of believers.

REESTABLISH: CREATING BEST PRACTICES

You'll create the roadmap and build best practices for your ministry in this section. You'll use what you reflected on in the previous sections—Remember & Reflect and Reset—to build these.

REIMAGINE: DREAMING TO PLANNING

Now that you've set the best practices, don't stop! Dream how to move forward with what you've dreamt up. Dream big! From your dreams and what you've built this far will lead you to planning. With your plan, you'll get ready to Re-Enter.

RE-ENTER: WALKING INTO THE FUTURE

Walk into the future. And remember—this roadmap is a guideline for you as you plan and pivot moving forward. You can always go back to Reimagine and build a new path from there.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Symptoms: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Poster links: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/cloth-face-covering.pdf>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms.pdf>

COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services:

https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19_Places_of_Worship_Guidance_06.30.2020.pdf

Region Mitigation Practice: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics?regionID=1>

CDC website for COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Illinois State Department for COVID-19:

https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/news?utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=SpurrierIllinois_Governors_Office&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIkavsqeKY6wIVjIbACh2ZxQMeEAAYASAAEgJqZvD_BwE

Journey Evaluation Plan: <https://ministryspark.com/resources/covid-19-church-re-entry-roadmap/>

Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists: Youth Ministries Department:

<https://www.ilcsda.org/departments/youthyoung-adults>

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