

**FBC Children & Youth Ministries’
Baby Steps Covid-19 Response Plan
Created by Special Task Team of Area Teachers and Medical Staff,
and Ministry Leaders.
(As of September 3, 2020)**

Much like the FBC 5 stage Response Plan, this is a steps-driven plan and not a date-driven plan. While we have targeted dates as part of this plan, all dates will remain fluid and be based on the current stage of recovery we are in as we partner with our community, unless there is a time we discern that it is time for our church to make independent decisions from these existing partnerships. With that being said, please remember that whatever stage the church is in will affect which step we are in for our ministries. It will also reflect what is currently happening in our local school and health communities.

It is important to realize that we desire nothing more than to partner with our church families to minister to every member, helping them to become more like Jesus in every area of their lives. We also want to protect the health of both those we minister to and those serving as volunteers in our ministries.

In an effort to follow CDC guidelines we holding to the following for students, parents and volunteers.

- If you not feeling well, have a cold, cough, runny nose, running a temperature of 100 or more, or have been in contact with a person that has tested positive for Covid-19 within the previous 14 days, or traveled to a high risk area, please stay home.
- Ensure 6 feet between individuals or family units of same household.
- Please sanitize your hands upon entering the building. Sanitizing stations will be available throughout the building.
- Cough into your elbow. Sneeze or blow your nose in a tissue, throw it away, and sanitize your hands.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Water fountains will not be available until further notice.

The following are the recommendations from the Task Team.

- Donations of small bottled water or juice boxes and prepackaged snacks for both children and youth would be appreciated.
- No meals (Feed the Flock or Youth pre-service food) will be served at this time.
- Classrooms/Gathering areas have been measured out and will have a posted number of the maximum amount of people allowed.
- As groups begin to meet, we ask our teachers to help disinfect the chairs and tables used in the classrooms before and after class. With limited availability, our custodian needs our help to keep up with these demands.

- Children's play areas will remain closed until further notice.
- Adults and children of appropriate age (grade 2 and older) must wear a mask or face shield in all areas of the church
- Every Teacher/Leader/Volunteer has the personal responsibility to make decisions on whether they feel safe to be available to serve.
- Mandatory video training for all NextGen leaders are being sent and should be viewed prior to re-opening these areas from Pastor Ken Durham, Jean Ann McAlister and Dr. Nathan Millikan (How to manage kids in a distance environment and proper health procedures)
- Due to the fact that area schools opened while still in Stage 4, the church recognizes the need to move with our partners in this regard.

The steps below are our plans to facilitate the upcoming changes in a way that helps us learn from our partners experiences. We are currently in Stage 4.5.

Baby Step 1:

- Online meetings will continue for Children's Sunday School, KidzChurch and DtL Youth Sunday School, Wednesday nights and other online activities.
- Registration has begun for the upcoming school year's AWANA Ministries. See Ginger Wills or Jody Maddy at the check-in desk for more information. Online options will be available for this as well.
- Busy bags will be available for families with Elementary and younger children to be used during the Sunday Morning Worship Service.
- Cry room will be closed until social distancing is lifted. Option listed below.
- Live Streaming of the service will be available in the Youth Chapel area for parents of active children or with special needs to be able to watch and participate in the service, while having the freedom to let the kids be up and moving around.

Baby Step 2: begins on September 9, 2020. (or 4 weeks after school is in session)

- There will be volunteers at the check-in desk to sign you and your family in on the computers for all NextGen. All Children & Youth are to come in through the gathering area. Youth will exit through door #5, and Children after pick up are to exit door #3
- Kindergarten – 4th graders are to walk themselves to class according to CDC requirements to help keep area sanitized.
- AWANA leaders will have training on September 9, 2020.
- AWANA classes to begin on September 16, 2020, with the exception of Puggles and Cubbies. Online options will be available for this as well. Please note, that if the assigned teacher is unavailable that day, we will have to close the class. We will no longer be able to combine classes like we did in the past. Childcare for nursery/preschool **will not** be provided at this time. This and the options for Puggles and Cubbies will be reconsidered once we move to Stage 5 and have volunteer leaders.
- Until we are in Stage 5, all physical activity games will be suspended. We will be providing game time using interactive trivia games for large group settings.

- All Children’s Ministry extra-curricular activities will continue to be limited until the social distancing requirement is lifted.
- Children’s Sunday School classes for Kindergarten – 6th will begin on Sept. 13, 2020. KidzChurch for K- 4th grade will be offered on September 13 & 20, 2020. Please note, that if the assigned teacher is unavailable that day, we will have to close the class. We will no longer be able to combine classes like we did in the past.
- Busy Bags will be available for those who choose to sit with their parents in service.
- Online options will still be available for all ministries.
- DtL Youth Wednesday Night services will begin to meet in person beginning September 9, 2020, still practicing social distancing, increasing the number of outside activities, while still offering online options. Sunday School will begin on September 13, 2020. A Beta test of a DtL café event will be on September 25th since they are an older group.
- Seating charts are being created for all groups to provide contact tracing in the event of anyone being diagnosed with Covid-19. To help with your child’s safety, we will be moving the teachers/leaders from room to room. This also helps to reduce the risk of going into an area that has not been properly cleaned between usages.
- Youth Chapel will be open for parents to use on Sundays as well, with the service being broadcast live in that area. Please practice social distancing in this area if room is occupied.
- In the event a child becomes symptomatic, we have a designated room to take the child until the parents/guardians are able to pick them up.

Please know that this is a guideline document. We will revisit this towards the end of September when we will hopefully hear more from our governor on his plans for moving to Stage 5. Until then, please be SEMPER GUMBY....always flexible! ☺

Finally, know that we love you and your family, and we are striving to serve your family the best way that we can during these times. We are also thinking of ways to minister to those who may not be able to join us right away due to special circumstance. We stand by Jesus’ words in Matthew 19:14, “..Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” They are not the church of tomorrow, but rather the church of today! We welcome them in our services and encourage you to train up and teach your child how to worship by showing them your example of worship! It is our pleasure to serve you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the following task team members:

Pastor Ken Durham, Family Life Pastor

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Jody Maddy, Children’s Director

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Kevin King, Youth Director

kking@newcastlefbc.org

Tina Durham, Teacher & ministry leader.

Matt Hurst, Teacher & ministry leader

Ginger Wills, AWANA Commander

Jean Ann McAllister, Principal & S.S.teacher/AWANA Leader

Amy Kinnaird, retired nurse & former youth leader

Dr. Nathan Millikan, heart surgeon & co-leader of Family4Family ministry

NOTES of things that were considered

- * NCCSC will have another meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 to finalize **IF** school will begin on August 5 and what that will look like for teachers and students.
- * Recommended a 2-4 week lag to start to let schools bear the brunt of figuring this out.
- * Technology needed for both Children and Youth to have a camera/iPad/Smart TV that is theirs to use for being able to broadcast live on Sundays and Wednesdays
- * The offer of training was recommended by the entire group, especially by the two who offered to do the training.
- * Recommended that there would not be any singing in Children or Youth services at this time.
- * Adult leaders would be responsible for wiping down tables, chairs, counters, door handles and light switches before and after class in both Children and Youth areas.
- * Adult leaders should wear a mask or face shield.
- * Elementary age group would have individual supply boxes so they would not have to share.
- * The group as a whole felt more comfortable starting after Labor Day to be fully open. We understood the need of moving forward and getting people back into church. It was suggested that we take a survey of the parents and to see what other churches are going to do about this. We are in process of developing that survey now for parents, and Jody & Kevin already have been reaching out to area churches and ministry groups. However, the question is do we really see things getting back to the old normal, or do we need to create ways to continue to reach out to them, even if they won't come to us?

Questions raised also:

- 1) Are we missing opportunities to minister to kids?
(Currently offering SS & Children's church online 85-100 views)
- 2) Are families getting out of a routine? Should online SS be offered at Sunday School time as a live event?
(Several families with children have stated they will not be back until MAYBE Thanksgiving or Christmas).
- 3) How are we connecting or get connected with these families?
- 4) Could we offer a staggered KidzChurch program (wk 1 is pre K & K, wk 2 is 1st – 2nd, wk 3 is 3rd – 4th)?
- 5) Could we get help getting volunteers since our current ones are in the at-risk category?
- 6) Other counties are not requiring masks once in classroom and are allowing activities/sports without masks. Why can't we?