

Covid Protocols for CGS Kids+Nursery Fall 2021 Children's Ministry

- 1) Until vaccines are available for children less than 12 yrs of age, we will — out of Christian charity — ask that our volunteers be vaccinated and masked.

Once vaccines for all ages are widely available, we will reassess. We value flexibility in our approach to policy, and will seek *not to be* unduly intrusive (meaning, we don't want more "rules" in place than absolutely warranted). But, we value Christian charity more highly still, and will inconvenience ourselves as staff and volunteers for the sake of our church family's children.

- 2) We will use parents' *verbal responses* to simple questions regarding the recent health and exposure risks of their children as a quick, gentle, non-invasive "screening tool" each Sunday.

We will *not routinely* take the temperatures of asymptomatic children with benign histories: there is no persuasive evidence in the clinical research literature to support the effectiveness of such an approach.

We will, however, consider the use of temperature assessments *if children appear symptomatic* or aspects of the history are potentially concerning

- 3) In accord with CDC guidelines (updated within the last weeks) for K-12 school settings and ECE (Early Childhood Education, aka nursery/preschool) settings:

We will *initially* (i.e. while early childhood vaccinations are still not available to the general public) ask that children who are old enough to cooperate (e.g. those who have attained their 3rd birthday) wear masks during their classroom time at CGS. We ask parents to cooperate with this, and prepare their children ahead of time for this expectation.

However, our classroom volunteers will *not* be expected to police the wearing/enforcement of this requested concession. We will not be asking that volunteers manually replace masks upon the faces of children that discard them. That interaction goes beyond the implications of parental consent and the *in loco parentis* statutes, because each child's parents are actually present in-house...

4) We love the CGS children, and want them to see Jesus in the loving, gentle manner in which we care for them. We know there will be challenges — not the least of which may be matching volunteers to our children...
Grace is required.

July 18, 2021