

BEST PRACTICES FOR FALL 2021



CHILDREN'S, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

These best practices have been created to offer suggestions for how to make children's, youth, and family ministries as safe as possible this fall as our provinces continue to progress through their re-opening plans. These are based on the hope that Nova Scotia will be in Phase Five and Prince Edward Island will have reached Step Five by mid-September, when church programs tend to begin. Both re-opening plans will unfold based on vaccination rates and epidemiology, so always be sure that you stay up to date on current restrictions in your province.

These are all quite conservative, as there is little information available that is specific to these ministries, so this document will be updated as more information is available.

GET OUTSIDE!

The risk of transmitting any illness is decreased by being outside, so as much as possible, run your programs out in creation!



MAKE SPACE FOR ALL COMFORT LEVELS

Different folks have different levels of what they are ok with and what they aren't - make sure you plan for that. This probably isn't the best time for high-contact games - but tossing a ball around a circle might work!

PLAN FOR MASKS & DISTANCE INDOORS

We might not need them, but it's better to be ready for this and not need it, than to not be prepared. Even if it isn't required, some might prefer them.



MAKE THE MOST OF DISTANCE

Instead of feeling limited by distancing requirements, think of ways to make it fun. Play games where distance adds challenge, mark off a distanced space on the floor for each participant - get creative and have fun!



STAY HOME IF YOU 'RE UNWELL

This is the norm most everywhere these days, but it's important to be explicit about it in your ministries. For participants and volunteers - if you aren't well, just stay home.



A COUPLE OF SPECIFICS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Create kits with all necessary materials for each child. This will make distancing easier, and limit surface spread of any germs.

Talk to parents in advance so that Sunday Schoolers can be prepared for what it will be like at Sunday School.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Plan for families to do activities together.

Create kits of materials for each family, just like Sunday School

Resource families to practice faith together at home.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Talk with your youth about what they feel comfortable with. Obviously hold current restrictions as your minimum, but work together to find what you all are comfortable with.

ANY QUESTIONS?

if you have any questions, get in touch with Allie acolp@nspeidiocese.ca or (902) 789 3481.

