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| **Vacation Bible School (VBS) – Amber Guidelines** |
| Ensure good ventilation if VBS is indoors. Outdoor programming is encouraged as much as possible. |
| Anyone entering the space (children,youth, staff, parents/guardians, deliveries, etc.) must be actively screened upon arrival. Refer to the ‘Screening’ section below for more information. |
| If children or youth attending are divided into groups (cohorts) maintain those groups throughout the Vacation Bible School. |
| Children under the age of four are not included in these safety guidelines |
| Masks must be worn when indoors (except to quickly eat or drink while physically distanced) and outdoors by children and youth when physical distancing is not possible. Have masks to use on hand as per the children’s ministry guidelines. Staff and volunteers must wear a mask at all times. Food and Drink must not be shared or served and must only be brought in by the child or youth if needed for health reasons and/or requested by the VBS as a snack. The VBS should have water on hand if needed as per the Amber Guidelines. |
| Educate staff and VBS participants on proper hand hygiene and ensure that each camper and staff member performs hand hygiene often throughout the day including before and after eating, using shared equipment (e.g., balls, loose equipment), activities, after toileting, blowing their nose, and before touching their faces.  Educate staff and participants on proper respiratory etiquette and ensure each camper and staff member follows appropriate respiratory etiquette, such as avoiding touching their face and/or mask and coughing/sneezing into their elbow, sleeve, or tissue. |
| If there are enough participants to divide into cohorts (or if there is only one small group as per the maximum numbers below) physical distancing is not required by individuals within a cohort; however, physical distancing of at least 2 metres must be maintained by individuals of other cohorts. Physical distancing must be strived for between camp participants, parents/guardians, and staff.  Ensure physical distancing between cohorts by:  • Choosing or modifying activities to minimize close contact;  • Spreading cohorts into different areas Exceptions may be made where safety limits the ability to distance (e.g., emergency drilled, first aid, severe weather) or for those with special needs;  • Spread furniture, and activity stations to allow for more space;  • Using visual cues (e.g., signs, posters, floor markings, etc.) and ensuring compliance with the requirements in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA); |
| Cohort sizes and staff to participant ratios are below. The VBS should reduce the maximum number of children in a cohort to allow for indoor and outdoor physical distancing. Cohort sizes must also be sufficiently small to accommodate physical distancing in the available space.  • Consider grouping participants who are members of the same household where possible.  • If a VBS participant requires a support worker(s) or other additional personal assistance, this support worker(s) or other additional personal assistance does not need to be included in the cohort count, but that individual should remain with the cohort at all times and follow all policies and protocols for staff (such as daily self-screening and wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.) |
| Cohorts (VBS participants with their assigned staff) must not mix (i.e., be within close contact) with other cohorts, including pick-ups and drop-offs before and after care, playtime, and outdoor activities. If this seems or feels impossible – physical distancing and masking is required at all times inside. if outside, masks may be removed if physical distancing is maintained. |
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| **Maximum Cohort Sizes and Staff Ratios** Age Category | Age range of age category | Ratio of staff to camp participants | Maximum Number of camp participants in cohort (not including staff) |
| Kindergarten | 4 years up to 6 years | 1 to 13 | 26 |
| Primary/Junior School | 6 years up to 9 years | 1 to 15 | 30 |
| Junior School | 9 years up to 13 years | 1 to 20 | 20 |
| Secondary School | > 13 years | 1 to 20 | 20 |

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| Each cohort has their own assigned indoor space separated from all other cohorts or groups by a prominent visual cue (e.g., floor markings) or a physical barrier that does not interfere with airflow or ventilation or pose a safety /fire hazard issue (e.g., pilons) to reinforce physical distancing requirements between cohorts and groups.  Each cohort should have designated equipment for their use only (e.g., balls, loose equipment) or equipment that is cleaned and disinfected between cohort use;  Personal belongings brought to VBS should be minimized and not shared between individuals. |
| Stagger the use of washrooms to prevent mixing of cohorts. Plus be aware of the capacity limits for washrooms. |
| Keep and maintain daily records for anyone entering the camp, including name, contact information, time of arrival/departure, screening to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a probable or confirm COVID-19 case or outbreak. |
| Pick-up and drop-off of VBS participants should take place outdoors and within a designated and isolated area. Parents/guardians must not enter the outside area used for VBS, building, or go beyond the drop-off/pick-up areas unless it is determined there is a need, and if so, they must be actively screened and should adhere to public health measures (e.g., mask, hand hygiene, physical distancing). |
| Staggering the arrival and departure times is recommended to support groups or cohorting if needed and physical distancing measures. |
| Strongly encourage all eligible staff and VBS participants to receive COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible, and at the earliest opportunity before the VBS starts. |
| Post signs at the entrance/reception areas (this is called passive screening) to include:  • explanations of symptoms of and exposures to COVID-19  • actions to take if they have symptoms or have had exposures (i.e., screening is positive)  • importance of public health measures  **Questions**  1. Do you currently have one or more of the COVID-19 symptoms below that are new or worsening? Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions.  • fever and/or chills  • cough or barking cough (croup)  • shortness of breath  • sore throat  • difficulty swallowing  • decrease or loss of smell or taste  • runny or stuffy/congested nose  • headache  • nausea/vomiting, diarrhea  • muscle aches/joint pain  • fatigue  • pink eye (for adults)  • stomach pain (for adults)  • falling down often (for older adults)  **If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No.”**  2. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)?  This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing  **3.** Do you live with someone who has been told by a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit that they should currently be isolating? **If you are fully vaccinated\*\*, select “No.”**  **If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No.”**  If you answer YES to any one of the questions above, PLEASE DO NOT enter this location AND contact either your health care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) to get advice or an assessment, including if you need a COVID-19 test. |
| Anyone entering the camp (e.g., camp participants, staff, or visitors) must be actively screened prior to arrival (electronically) or upon their arrival prior to entry at a clearly identified location, with the exception of first responders who should in emergency situations be permitted entry without screening.  ~Anyone who is ill and/or does not successfully pass the active screening must not be permitted to attend the program.  ~Household members of camp participants who also attend camp and have symptoms compatible with COVID-19 should follow the directions of the COVID-19 screening tool |
| VBS may use the COVID-19 screening questions offered in the Youth and Children’s Ministry guidelines to facilitate screening questions for younger children or use the screening questions provided for parishioners. |
| Staff conducting active screening at the VBS setting should take appropriate precautions when screening:  • Maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres from those being screened is recommended when possible  • PPE: a mask is required - eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield) is recommended for screeners |
| Hand sanitizer should be available at screening stations, throughout the space where needed and entrances/exits, ensuring younger children do not have unsupervised access. |
| ~Ensure all toys and equipment are made of material that can be cleaned and disinfected (e.g., avoid plush toys, playdough) or are single use and are disposed of at the end of the day.  ~ Minimize the sharing of objects, toys, equipment and surfaces, and other personal items, where possible, or they should be cleaned and disinfected between use. VBS participants should clean their hands before and after use of shared items that cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected.  ~ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces several times depending on how long VBS gatherings are; more frequent cleaning and/or disinfection may be necessary, depending on the frequency of use and extent of soilage. Examples include, but are not limited to toilet and faucet handles (which must be cleaned and disinfected), tables, knobs, handles, light switches, and touch screens. |
| Promote and perform frequent, proper hand hygiene (including supervising or assisting VBS participants) by handwashing with soap and water if hands visibly soiled or using an alcohol- based sanitizer at other times. |
| There is no group singing allowed indoors – as per our Amber Guidelines. Outside if distanced as per the Amber Guidelines groups of four may sing together. |
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