Nursery Care Protocols –
Amber Guidelines

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| The Diocesan Vaccination Policy must be adhered to. |
| Screening for staff and volunteers must be completed before entering the nursery area. Children must not be in the nursery if they are sick. Parents may complete the child’s screening. |
| Contact logs must be kept. |
| Organize children’s drop-off and pick-up times to prevent crowding and congregating. |
| All staff and volunteers must wear masks. It is recommended for staff and volunteers that the masks be medical masks or cloth masks with three layers, rather than ordinary cloth masks. Children must wear masks at all times indoors, to the greatest extent possible. Children under two do not need to wear masks, and it is not recommended. Thus, unless the child’s parent is volunteering and caring for their own child, eye protection (e.g. face shield or goggles) is suggested for staff or volunteers working in close contact with children who are not wearing masks. |
| Hand hygiene must be rigourous. Adults should be supporting and supervising the proper use of hand sanitizer by the children. The hand sanitizers should not be accessible to the children in the nursery. |
| Physical distancing of 2 metres should be maintained as well as possible between children, adults and between adults and children. When not possible, hand hygiene and masking are particularly important. |
| Make sure you have the best ventilation possible in areas/rooms used. |
| As is possible in your space, increase space between seating and play areas for physical distancing (i.e. two metres/six feet):* Remove extra chairs, tables and furniture to increase space to allow children to spread out.
* Place tape, signs or other visual markers on floors, tables, seats and in play areas.
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| The space for the nursery should be cleaned on a regular schedule, always making sure it is cleaned prior to each Sunday use or any “next” use. If the nursery is used during more than one worship time, please wipe down high-touch surfaces in between. When the nursery is in use, the focus should be on regular hand hygiene to reduce the risk of infection related to high touch surfaces. |
| The risk associated with transmission of COVID-19 from shared objects is low. Children should practice hand hygiene before and after use of toys, playdough, markers, pencils, crayons and other equipment. Instead of regular cleaning of shared objects, the focus should be on regular hand hygiene, masking and good respiratory etiquette to reduce the risk of infection related to shared equipment. |
| Toys that have been mouthed should be taken out of circulation (e.g. stored in a “dirty toy” bin) immediately after the child has finished using it, and cleaned well prior to another child playing with it. It is recommended that a “dirty toy bin” be established. |
| Toys and equipment must be cleaned on a routine basis with a schedule, always making sure they are clean prior to each Sunday or any “next” use. |
| Have a designated area ready for cleaning of toys. |
| Tissues and lined, no-touch waste baskets (for example, foot pedal-operated, hand sensor, open basket) should be provided, where possible. |
| Staff or volunteers should stay with the same child or group of children throughout each nursery time. |
| Children may have their own drinking bottle that is labeled, kept with them and not shared. |
| Books are safe to be shared. However, if mouthed, remove the book from circulation for at least 72 hours. Have a specific shelf or container set aside. Good hand hygiene and not touching one’s face is important when handling a book or any other object that has been mouthed. |
| Shared outdoor spaces and outdoor playground structures may be used. To the greatest extent possible, avoid crowding of children together outdoors. Masks are recommended even outside, in abundant caution. |
| Outdoor playground structures do not need to be cleaned or disinfected between uses unless the equipment is visibly soiled or dirty. Hand hygiene should be practiced before and after using playground equipment or outdoor play structures. |