

High School Youth Ministry COVID Policies

As of Aug. 3rd, 2020

The guidance document has been designed for use in conjunction with the overall policy of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and local public health directives. Advice of the local public health units must be followed, even in the event that it contradicts this document. This document will be reviewed and modified as applicable when COVID-19 restrictions can be lifted and/or amended to reflect new advice as it is given.

While the focus of this policy is on maintaining healthy operational measures for children's and youth ministry at Shepherd of the Hills, please note that every effort will be made to uphold a welcoming and caring environment for our teens, volunteers, families, and staff.

Though we will attempt to take proactive preventative measures to ensure safety and cleanliness, we acknowledge that risk of exposure is possible and may result in temporary dismissal or omission from ministry events. All public activities, including participation here at Shepherd of the Hills, remain at your own risk.

We strive to work closely with our families, local government, and national government to safeguard and protect our youth as closely as possible, trusting ultimately in the Almighty God who guards our steps. We know that the Lord is our refuge and strength, an "ever present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). We look forward to the High School Youth Group meeting every week starting on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd from 6pm-8pm.

A. Activities

- a. We will host outside activities until no longer able to or weather permitting with social distancing in place and guidelines being followed.
 - i. We will meet back by the fire-pit for games, bible study, activities and more.
 - ii. Weather-permitting: we will be meeting in the new high school youth room in the new building.
- b. Hand sanitizer will be provided.

c. We will be having low-touch food options available with pizza being provided each week and individually wrapped snack options. If you don't prefer to partake, please bring your own food or eat before coming.

B. Masks

a. All youth and volunteers will be required to follow state guidelines regarding masks when inside. Students are excused from wearing a mask if:

i. They are eating

ii. They have a medical condition that makes them unable to wear a mask for long period of time

b. If the state removes the required mask rule, all volunteers will continue to wear masks. Masks will still be strongly encouraged for youth, but not required. Decisions will be made by parents of the youth.

F. Communication with Families

a. We will continue to communicate to families and youth with all updates, adjustments, and health concerns that arise through the Remind App and email.

G. Well Student Policy:

a. For the protection of all youth, staff, and leaders in our ministries, we would ask that you please adhere to these guidelines when considering if you should bring your youth to events.

b. A healthy teen does not display any of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- Headache
- General feeling of unwell

- Unexplained rashes
- Vomiting or diarrhea currently or within the last 24 hours
- Skin or eye infections
- Chicken pox, mumps, measles, etc.

c. If a teen currently has any of the above symptoms:

i. Please do not bring your teen to the ministry event. Instead, we encourage you and your family to join us online, via our website or social media outlets.

d. If a child/student develops any of the above symptoms while in our care:

i. We will ask you to pick your child/student up immediately.

ii. We will not administer medication of any kind.

iii. We may ask you to follow up with us and report any possible infectious illnesses so that we can inform other families or staff about possible risk exposure.

iiii. We will follow our own protocol regarding sanitation and communication of possible infection to involved individuals and local health care organizations, if necessary.

We love having your family join us and hope to bring the light of Jesus into their lives, especially during this uncertain time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and ensures the safety of all the teens, staff, volunteers, and families here at our church! We look forward to seeing you soon!