Guidance on Youth and Children Events

This expanded guidance is provided based on the collection of published peer reviewed epidemiological studies and recommendations of medical professionals. Additionally, as the vaccination coverage increases, we know the risk to those most vulnerable is moderated. We know now, after a year of the COVID-19 pandemic, that while children and youth are able to get sick and spread COVID, if proper health and safety precautions are taken, their share of the burden of the disease is proportional to the community around them. They are unlikely to get sick or spread COVID any more than anyone else taking the same precautions. Additionally, while they may get sick, the mortality rate for children and youth is much lower than older people.

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| **Adjustments** | **Phase 1** | **Phase 2** | **Phase 3** |
| **Attendees- include adults, youth and children** |
| **Health of attendees** | Attendees must be well and not in contact with anyone sick or testing positive in past 2 weeks. Temperature checked and recorded upon arrival | Attendees must be well.If in contact with sick or positive and they have antibodies or vaccine, then only 1 week.Temperature checked upon arrival | Same as Phase 2 |
| **Record of attendees** | Attendees must RSVP.Limit events to 10 people.Complete event attendance record (Feb 2021)Record filed with the SOC office | RSVP recommendedLimited to 20 peopleUse and file either attendance record (November 2020 or Feb 2021) |  |

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| **Personal Safeguards for attendees** |
| **Handwashing and hand sanitizing** | Must be done upon arrival, prior to departure and when needed throughout | Recommended upon arrival and as needed, especially after putting hands near face, and using the bathroom. | As needed. |
| **Face Coverings/Masks** | Use high quality, multi layered masks at all times | Mask use mandatory inside. Mask use outside when sitting if people are moving around within 6 feet. Mask use required when not seated. | Masks use advised when inside. |

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| **Place -Safeguards at the location** |
| **Location of event** | Must be outside at all times or Zoom call | Outside | Mostly outside |
| **Transportation** | No church sponsored transportation | Same | If necessary, with masks and windows open |
| **Amount of time** | Limited to 1 hour or less | Limited to 1 ½ hours or less | Not limited, but no overnight  |
| **Bathroom use** | In emergency. Must be sprayed with disinfectant after each use | Limit use. Spray with disinfectant before and after each event.For children, adult monitoring to assure good hygiene. | Weekly cleaning provided by church unless otherwise needed. |
| **Distancing** | Stay minimum of 6 feet apart at all times. Those in same family or safety bubble are able to sit together. | Same.  | Outside distancing not necessary, as long as there is no physical touch. |

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| **Things – Safeguards when handling things** |
| **Food** | No food service | Same | Food in single serve packages outside |
| **Drinks** | No drinks | Drinks without masks only while everyone is seated and no one is moving around. Recommend straws that can slip under masks if drinks are being used during activities. | Drinks ok outside |
| **Activities** | Calm, non-chasing games No sharing of items, crafts, etc | Limit sharing of items | Non touching |