

VBS 2021 Pandemic Practices -*Subject to Change as the situation changes*

The staff of Messiah Lutheran Church and KidMin in particular, are cautiously excited for the return of in-person Vacation Bible School! There are two sessions for those who would like to attend live, while taking necessary precautions to keep all kids, adult volunteers, and Messiah staff safe. At the same time, virtual VBS @Home will also be available including supply kits that parallel the rotations happening on campus each day.

Families are asked to care for each other by monitoring for symptoms and adhering to the following guidelines. Family members should not attend VBS if any of the following apply. The child or family members:

- Are sick or have been sick in the past 10 days. Symptoms to watch for: fever (100°F or higher), cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, fatigue, congestion/running nose, nausea/diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell.
- Have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19. These children must follow isolation and quarantine guidelines from the local health department. In this situation, please stay home and call the VBS hotline. 972-398-7505
- Have a household member who is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or who is awaiting their own test results. In this situation, please stay home and call the VBS hotline. 972-398-7505
- Have traveled internationally within 14 days prior to VBS. You may sign up for the @home version of VBS if your family is returning from travel just before VBS begins.

If a child shows any of the symptoms listed above while at VBS, parents will be asked to take them home along with any siblings. Assuming COVID-19 has been ruled out, a child should be symptom free for a full 72 hours without fever reducing medication before returning to in-person VBS. As an alternative, your child can continue his or her VBS adventure using the @home session programming.

General policies

TWO sessions are scheduled each day to reduce the total number of participants on campus at any one time, and to allow for greater physical distancing in our largest capacity rooms. The preschool session is 9:00am – 12noon for those ages 3 (and potty-trained), 4, or 5 who have not yet been to Kindergarten. The elementary session is 1:30 – 4:30 pm for those who finished Kindergarten through Fourth grade.

Each day, a volunteer will take the temperature of every participant upon arrival, before the child enters the large group opening session. For drop off, parents should park on the west side of campus and bring their child to the area designated with their crew name to sign them in. Once temperature checked, volunteer buddies will walk children inside the gym for the opening session. After the closing session, our crew leaders will bring the crews outside to meet you for pick up and sign out.

1. Registration/information tables will be equipped with thermometers for the volunteers taking temps, disposable masks if needed, and disinfecting wipes.
2. Masks are encouraged for all participants who are comfortable wearing one, since children under 12 have no option at this time to be vaccinated. Any volunteer who is not fully vaccinated should continue wearing a mask as all volunteers will be within 6 feet of children each day. Volunteers who are two weeks past their full vaccination date have the option of serving without a mask.
3. Due to the large number of people arriving during drop off and pick up, adults who are not fully vaccinated should continue wearing a mask while signing their children in and out each day. Check in/out will take place outside under canopies designated with signs by crew name. Crews will be brought outside to the canopies at dismissal.
4. VBS station volunteers and assistants will wipe down the tables and chairs with disinfectant wipes or disinfectant spray between rotations. Each station will also have hand sanitizer to use with the children. When preschool goes to their base classroom for the mid-morning break, they will have sinks to wash hands with soap/water before and after snacks and their bathroom time.
5. Each evening a cleaning crew is scheduled. Additional cleaning will take place on campus in the rooms being used for VBS during the mid-day break between sessions.