

What to Expect: Returning to In-Person Sunday School

Upon re-opening of in-person learning on Sunday mornings, Living Hope Nursery School, Preschool and The Point will follow enhanced cleaning, physical distancing measures, symptom screening and other safety procedures. Read below to find out what to expect when your family returns.

Screening Requirements

1. Every child must complete the screening questionnaire for COVID-19 on Sunday morning before coming to church.
2. The Ontario Ministries of Health and Education developed this screening tool and was last updated August 26, 2021, should a newer version be released, we will use that option.
3. The screening PDF can be accessed on our website and it will be available at the check-in desk for guests and families unable to complete it at home.
4. The registration desk will confirm your child has completed the Sunday School Child Self-Screening.
 1. You do NOT need to bring in a copy or email a confirmation,.
5. Everyone in your household must stay home if anyone has COVID-19 symptoms or is waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms.

Registration and Check-in

1. Pre-registration for regular attending children is not required, guests and visitors must sign-in at the front desk
2. All children will check-in at the Sunday School Registration Desk, located in the Fellowship Hall beside the mailboxes
3. Please maintain physical distancing while lining up to sign in your children.
4. Your phone number is used to identify your family and check-in your children
5. Each child will receive a Name Tag that includes:
 1. Their class
 2. Allergies and relevant medical information (ex. mask exemptions)
 3. The Parent Code along the side that will be the same for each child if you have multiple children
6. Infants will receive an additional Name Tag to place on their diaper bag
7. Every parent will receive one Parent Code sticker to be used at pick up
 1. Please do not lose the Parent Code sticker!

8. Infants are welcome to start their morning in the Nursery, while older children participate in worship in the Sanctuary
9. Children will be dismissed before the Congregational Prayer

Drop-off and Attendance

1. One parent is asked to walk your child to their class, ensuring they are leaving in an orderly fashion and maintaining physical distancing.
2. All children are encouraged to practice hand hygiene (washing or sanitizing) prior to entering the classroom
3. All children are encouraged to use the bathroom before starting their program
4. Infant parents can line up inside the middle nursery room, where you will find the attendance desk, change table, shelves for diaper bags, coat rack, and access to the bathroom for toileting and hand washing
5. Toddler-Preschool parents can line up in the Sunday School hallway, leading towards the back doors (please do not line up leading to the Fellowship Hall)
6. SK - Grade 5 parents will form two lines leading to each Elementary classroom (SK-2 and 3-5)
7. Please maintain 2m distance between each household while waiting.
8. When children enter the classroom, Teachers will mark their attendance sheet
 1. If your child is not listed, they will add their name to their list

Pick-Up

1. Immediately following the service, head to the same class where you dropped your children off
2. Again, line up keeping 2m between households
3. At the door, present your Parent Code to the teacher, they will match it to your child's Name Tag.
 1. If you have lost your Parent Code sticker, contact the Sunday School Coordinator (Jamie Jongsma) for assistance
4. Living Hope is not currently offering coffee service or fellowship after the service, and you are asked to head outside once you pick up your children

Cohorts

1. Cohorting means keeping students together in a group throughout the morning, with limited exposure to multiple teachers or a wide variety of classmates.

2. Currently the three cohorts are Nursery, Toddler-Preschool and The Point (which includes SK-5).
3. Physical distancing of 2 meters will be promoted as much as possible, in each cohort, at all times.

PPE for Children

1. All students in Grade 1-6 and all volunteers in any class are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering while inside the building, including in hallways. Reasonable exceptions on the requirement to wear masks will apply.
2. All younger children (aged 2 years to SK) are encouraged, but not required, to wear a non-medical mask or face covering while inside the building, including in hallways.
3. Please see the Mask Information, Exemptions and Alternatives FAQ Sheet¹.

Eating and Drinking

1. At this time, we are not providing snack at any age
2. Water bottles may be used; children will remain physically distanced during drinking

Sanitization and Sharing of Materials

1. Mouthed toys will be placed in a bin after use and washed at the end of the service
2. All volunteers and children must practice hand hygiene upon arrival at church (either washing or sanitizing).
3. Children can share materials with appropriate physical distancing measures and regular hand hygiene
 1. This includes sharing art supplies, books, indoor physical education equipment, and learning and play-based materials.
4. Children are encouraged to use hand sanitizer after using an item that cannot be sanitized (ex. books, crayons)
5. Following Living Hope's enhanced cleaning practices, all tables, chairs, large toys and high touch surfaces will be cleaned during the week

Sign of Illness During Sunday School

1. If a child begins to shows symptoms of COVID 19, parents will be asked to pick up the child from class and leave church immediately.
2. The child will be kept at least two metres away from others until a parent arrives

¹ Mask Information, Exemptions and Alternatives FAQs in Appendix A

3. If a symptomatic child receives an alternate diagnosis from their primary health care provider (i.e. it is not believed to be COVID-19, but ongoing allergies), they may return to church once it has been at least 24 hours since symptoms started improving.
4. Children do not need clearance testing or medical notes to return to church.

Disclosure of a positive COVID-19 case in Sunday School

1. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by Public Health and advised on next steps.
2. Public Health will conduct contact tracing and identify and follow up with all close contacts. To help with contact tracing, Living Hope will provide Public Health with attendance records.
3. Classroom cohorts (children and volunteers) will generally be considered at high risk of exposure. Anyone determined to be close contacts will receive recommendations on self-isolation and testing from Public Health.
4. Not everyone may have been exposed.
5. If someone tests positive for COVID-19 and you are not deemed to be a close contact, you do not need to be tested or stay home.
6. Children in a household where a parent, child, or other member has tested positive will stay home and isolate with their household, as per Public Health guidance.

Conditions to Close Sunday School

1. During any period where our district elementary schools (KPRDSB) are closed and operating exclusively on-line, all Sunday School programs will be closed.
2. While child care centres for non-school-aged children are able to remain open during school closures, both the Nursery and the Toddler-Preschool programs will also close
3. An "outbreak" would be declared at the discretion of Public Health, and next steps would be communicated to Living Hope.
 1. Outbreaks are usually declared if 2 or more positive cases are disclosed within a 14-day period
 2. Anticipate closing for at least two weeks following an outbreak.

These health and safety measures may be adjusted based on guidance from Peterborough Public Health. You will be emailed if any changes are made.

Appendix A

Mask Information, Exemptions and Alternatives FAQ

***Face coverings will not stop you from getting COVID-19, but may help protect others.**

Q: Who is required to wear a mask?

- Students in Grades 1 to 6 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in church, including in hallways and during worship.
- Students age 2 to SK will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in all indoor spaces.
- Children do not have to wear a face covering indoors if they are younger than two years old.

Q: Who is exempt from wearing a mask?

- If you are unable to put on or remove your face covering without help from someone else
- Do not place masks on children under the age of two years or on anyone unable to remove without assistance or who has trouble breathing.
- If you have any medical condition that inhibits your ability to wear a face covering
- Children with severe cognitive or respiratory impairments who have difficulties tolerating a mask should, under no circumstances, be required to wear masks.

Q: Why don't younger children need to wear a mask?

- Face coverings for students age 2 to SK is not required but strongly recommended
- Facial covering use for younger children can be a challenge due to difficulties with proper fit and compliance
- Younger children may not be able to avoid touching their mask, which may increase risk of COVID-19
- It is recommended that these students be encouraged to wear facial coverings and follow other public health strategies that mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19, such as cohorting, covering coughs and sneezes and hand hygiene to reduce the risk of transmission

Q: What qualifies as a non-medical mask?

- A proper face covering should have 2 or more layers of breathable fabric and have a snug fit around your mouth, nose, and chin with no gaps.

Q: Can neck gaiters or buffs be used?

- Neck gaiters or buffs are not considered to be a safe type of face covering due to the limited evidence regarding their effectiveness

Q: Can plastic face shields or mouth shields be used?

- In special situations where it is not practical to wear a mask, face shields may be used while taking the following considerations into account:
 - The face shield is an incomplete physical barrier and does not provide the filtration layers of a mask.
 - At present, face shields are considered to provide a level of eye protection only and should not be considered as an equivalent to masks with respect to respiratory droplet protection and/or source control.
 - The face shield should cover the entire face, be wrapped around the sides of the face and extend to below the chin.
 - Caution should be taken to avoid injury when children don, wear, and doff face shields.

Q: Can masks be taken off and put back on?

- Masks can temporarily be removed
 - to engage in an athletic or fitness activity
 - to eat or drink
 - as necessary for health and safety purposes
- Wash your hands immediately before putting on and immediately after taking off a face covering or face mask
- Change the face covering or face mask when it gets slightly wet or dirty

All information is taken directly from Peterborough Public Health and will be updated accordingly.