

## **Duluth Vineyard Kids COVID-19 Worship Service Protocol**

We know that attending in-person Vineyard Kids during a pandemic is a big decision as a parent/guardian, and we are putting procedures in place to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19. Attending in-person gatherings of any kind has a level of risk, and we will take important steps to create a fun environment for kids to experience Jesus.

While we are excited to welcome back in-person Vineyard Kids, we want to start by saying: it will look different. Creating a place for kids to worship together, learn what God says in the Bible, pray for one another, and practice becoming disciples of Jesus is why Vineyard Kids exists. And, we exist to love our neighbors well, and in this case, that means everyone who is part of Vineyard Kids. In order to do that, we are putting some precautions in place.

In order to be part of Vineyard Kids, we're asking you and your child(ren) to commit to showing up consistently each weekend. This creates a unique opportunity, (one we honestly have never had in Vineyard Kids before!), to create an atmosphere for intentional interaction and discipleship on a consistent basis, with the same group of kids in the same classroom together.

We will take important steps to reduce risk, and we must also acknowledge that gathering in-person yields a level of risk. We will do our best to practice physical distancing in the classrooms, but we are working with volunteers and kids and cannot guarantee those guidelines will always be followed. We are taking the precaution of assigning each child a Vineyard Kids Cohort to help mitigate risk.

### **Worshipping God Is Vitally Important Right Now**

- There are important benefits from gathering in-person to worship together, and we must acknowledge that during this pandemic gathering in-person remains a high-risk activity. Larger gatherings for extended periods are still dangerous and you could catch COVID-19 at one of our in-person worship services.
- Although we can't tell you it is 100% safe to come to an in-person worship service, (as you'll read below) we are taking important steps to minimize the risk to you and to the Twin Ports Community. We are trying hard to follow medical and governmental guidance. And, even more importantly, we really want to love

others (like Jesus would) through the precautions we take when we gather in-person to worship.

- Additional information about our in-person worship services and COVID guidelines can be found [here](#).

### **In-Person Worship Services on Sundays**

- Sundays at 9 am and 11 am will be our in-person Vineyard Kids worship service.
- Vineyard Kids' online resources will continue to be updated each week.
- We will shorten our in-person worship services to about an hour so we can accommodate social distancing measures, shorten exposure, and provide adequate time to clean between services.

### **Pre Registration Required**

We will not be able to welcome anyone who has not pre-registered. Registration will ensure each child remains in their assigned classroom with the same children. Each classroom will function as its own "Vineyard Kids Cohort".

### **About Vineyard Kids Cohorts**

- You will have a chance to sign your child up for a Vineyard Kids Cohort. Each weekend, a spot will be saved for your child in the same classroom. Your child will remain in that classroom at that assigned service and will only be able to attend Vineyard Kids during that time.
- In order to best serve our community and offer a chance for as many families to participate as possible, minimum attendance is required to hold your spot. If you do not attend for three weekends in a row, your spot may be passed along to another child on our waiting list.
- Cohorts will be limited to the following numbers:
  - Infant room: 4
  - All other rooms (one-year-old through Club45): 15
- Families can sign up for a cohort until the room reaches its maximum capacity. Once our classrooms are full, you can sign up on our waiting list.

### **Check-in Procedures**

- Check-in will be at the Vineyard Kids self check-in area. Families will be encouraged to maintain 6 feet of physical distance while each group is checking in their child(ren).
- All coats and personal belongings must remain with parents/guardians.

- After your child has received their sticker and parents/guardians have all their personal belongings, a Vineyard Kids volunteer will accompany your child to their classroom.

### **Diapering Procedures**

COVID-19 is shown to spread through exposure to feces and because of this, our Vineyard Kids volunteers will not be changing diapers. If your child needs to have their diaper changed, your number will be posted in the auditorium and you can retrieve your child and change his/her diaper in the nursing mother's room.

### **Vineyard Kids Volunteers**

Vineyard Kids teachers are volunteers and because of that, we can't guarantee they will be serving every weekend. Volunteers will be scheduled to serve every other week so your child may have up to 4 different teachers in a month (with 2 teachers in a classroom each time we gather together). Not only does this help reduce risk with exposure to fewer volunteers, but it also creates a space for teachers to get to know the children in their classrooms on a consistent basis.

### **Cleaning Procedures**

- Cleaning of high-touch surfaces will be done throughout the worship service.
- Children will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the classroom.
- Any hard-to-clean surfaces (stuffed animals, play clothes, cloth books) have been removed from the classrooms.

### **Hand washing**

Proper handwashing practices are important to reduce the spread of any virus. Hand sanitizer will be in all classrooms. Hand washing is more effective than hand sanitizer in reducing germs. However, in instances where hand washing is not readily available, hand sanitizer can be used. The Vineyard Kids staff and volunteers will encourage proper handwashing with all children.

### **During the service**

- All volunteers and staff are required to wear a mask.
- Kids two years old and above will be required to wear a mask. If you forget a mask, disposable masks will be provided at the Vineyard Kids check-in area.
- Volunteers will have their temperature checked upon arrival.

- Kids will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting their classrooms.
- Classroom furniture will be arranged to maximize physical distancing.
- Visual physical distancing reminders, such as floor stickers, will be placed throughout the Vineyard Kids main space.
- Each classroom will enter the large group worship area with only their classroom. Children will return to their classroom prior to another classroom using the space.
- Bathroom breaks will be limited to one child at a time, and each child will be accompanied to and from the bathroom by a Vineyard Kids teacher. The bathroom between the infant/one-year-old classroom will not be used at this time.
- Only Vineyard Kids staff and volunteers will be allowed in the Vineyard Kids space during the services.
- If parents need to be reached, your child's assigned letter/number code will be shown on the screen in the main auditorium. Parents/guardians can then head to the check-out location to pick-up their child.

### **Masks**

Per CDC guidelines, children over the age of 2 will be required to wear a mask. We will have masks available if you forget to bring one. While Vineyard Kids staff and volunteers will attempt to ensure children wear their masks properly, this will not always happen with young children. Their masks might slip down, it might get itchy, and our team will encourage proper mask-wearing etiquette as much as possible. All Vineyard Kids staff and volunteers will be required to wear a mask.

### **Social Distancing**

Kids may not maintain 6 feet distance at all times and they may be in and out of each other's bubbles within the classroom space. Our space will be set up to encourage as much distance between each child as possible, but we acknowledge that keeping 6 feet apart at all times will not always happen within our Vineyard Kids space and classrooms.

### **Water fountains**

Drinking fountains are turned off and taped off. Individual bottled water will be provided upon request.

### **Check-out**

- Parents/guardians can return to the Vineyard Kids lobby and Vineyard Kids staff and volunteers will retrieve kids from their classrooms.