

# BEST PRACTICES FOR FALL 2022



## CHILDREN'S, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Public Health restrictions may have been removed, or significantly eased, but COVID-19 is still present in our communities and continues to spread.

These best practices, shaped by guidance from Bishop Sandra, offer ways that we can continue to take care to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses, and to do our best to care for the children, youth, and families that we are called to serve.

### GET OUTSIDE!

The risk of transmitting any illness is decreased by being outside, so as much as possible as long as the weather stays warm enough, run your programs out in creation!



### MAKE SPACE FOR ALL COMFORT LEVELS

Different folks have different levels of what they are ok with and what they aren't - make sure you plan for that. High contact games might not be the right choice right now - but tossing a ball around a circle might work!

### ALLOW FOR MASKS & DISTANCE INDOORS

Masks are still encouraged by public health, even if they are not required. Physical distancing isn't required either, but there are folks who will appreciate being able to opt-in for both of them.



### PRIORITIZE HAND HYGIENE

Washing or sanitizing hands before eating is pretty standard practice, but add in another wash or sanitize **after** eating as well.

### STAY HOME IF YOU'RE UNWELL

This is the norm most everywhere these days, but it's important to be explicit about it in your ministries. This is important for both participants and volunteers - if you aren't well, just stay home.



## A COUPLE OF TIPS:

### HOLD YOUR BOUNDARIES

Whatever guidelines or practices you choose to adopt and follow, hold tightly to them. If you are loosey goosey and sometimes are strict and other times let things slide, it can leave people feeling unsure and like your guidelines don't need to be taken that seriously.

### CHECK IN WITH YOUR PEOPLE

Building on making space for all comfort levels - ask people where they are at and what they are comfortable with. Ministry is fundamentally about relationship, so connecting with young people and their parents to make sure you honour where everyone is at is key.

### KEEP YOUR FINGER ON THE PULSE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY

You might not be able to see exact update of what's happening with COVID or other illnesses in your community, but the more you are able to stay aware of what's happening in your context, the more responsive you can be in terms of the risk management measures you adopt, or the kinds of activities you include in the ministries that are happening.

### ANY QUESTIONS?

if you have any questions, get in touch with Allie [acolp@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:acolp@nspeidiocese.ca) or (902) 789 3481.