

# Suggestions for Resuming in-person YFM

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Each community is different. The suggestion below may not apply or work for your situation adjust and modify to fit your situation. Step through everything activity of your YFM before resuming. Follow applicable guidelines for your state's daycares and/or schools and the CDC.

## Resources

- <https://www.unitysouthcentral.org/articles>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-faq.html>
- <https://ministryspark.com/articles/>
- <https://ministryspark.com/resources/>

## Things to Keep in Mind:

- Activities will likely take longer to do. Keep it simple and flexible.
- Ask yourself how you will continue to reach families that have been showing up virtually?
  - Will you to do a hybrid class?
  - How will you equip and assist parents in facilitating the spiritual unfoldment their children?
- If you serve a large number of children, consider a phased approach to return to in-person classes.
- State required behaviors from all people such as Namaste vs hug (no touching), maintain 6ft distance, wash hands frequently and any others.
- Communicate policies, procedures and practices to families, multiple ways and times.

## Policies, Procedures and Practices

Review current policies, procedures, and practices. Note areas that will require a change. See this activity as an opportunity to change/tweak a practice that is not serving your YFM.

### Policies:

If you do not already have a wellness policy create one.

- Require sick children (and adults) to stay home.

- Request anyone who interacts with children or those caring for the youth that becomes sick with a contagious illness to notify you immediately.
- Set criteria for shut down occurrence such as a confirmed case of COVID-19.
  - How long will shut-down last?
  - Who decides a shut-down is necessary?
  - What actions are to be taken?
- Set policy on mask and gloves wearing.
  - Have all adults working with children wear mask.
  - Request children 3 or older to wear mask, (not recommended for those under 2 - CDC - allow reasonable exceptions.) *Mask wearing will help child not touch their face in addition to assisting with droplet disbursement.*
  - Determine if you will have clean mask available for those who do not have one.
  - Note what activities will require gloves. Be sure to have a supply in appropriate sizes.
- Define appropriate physical contact
- Be aware that if we take temperatures, we can be held liable if an outbreak occurs.
- Masks or no masks - not recommended for those under 2 - CDC
- No diaper bags or backpacks.

### How will you handle an outbreak?

- Make sure your student registrations are up to date.
- Keep weekly attendance lists, include those who are just visiting
- How will families be notified?

### Volunteers and Staff:

- Once policies/procedures are set, train staff and volunteers on the safety procedures.
- If there is only one leader - consider creating a team of leaders and alternate who leads when and will provide backup in case of illness.
- Poll volunteers to see who is willing and able to return to the in-person classroom.
- If you are creating a hybrid of both online and onsite - determine which teachers will facilitate which experience.

- Give them language to use in anticipated situations.
  - For example, how to address someone not complying with the safety procedures.
- Review your volunteer schedule.
  - Consider limiting the number of volunteers as well as staff potential exposed in a two-week time period.
- Give workers a place to change clothes before and after service if they desire.
- What family outreach will you engage in?
  - Who will be the volunteers?
  - Staff may already be overwhelmed with additional responsibilities and some adults may be craving connections. The new service role may benefit them greatly.

### Physical space:

#### How will people navigate through the building?

- Consider creating a check-in, check-out desk in a common area for YFM.
  - This limits the number of people in the YFM areas. (*More details below*)
- Limit traffic in youth area.
  - If shared space, only necessary staff in the area.
  - This may mean designating who can use what building entry points and spaces within the building.
  - This may include restrooms.
  - Some areas may be closed to everyone.
- Place signage and/or reasonable barriers (do not create an emergency exit hazard) to limited or no access areas.
- Prop open doors or have a doorman if space allows.
- Determine maximum number of children you are able to serve per classroom based on physical space as well as number of adults working.
- Inspect your physical space.
  - Remove any items that would be handled but cannot be disinfected.

#### Cleaning practices:

- Use CDC guidelines
- Who will do what cleaning when?
- Allow time for cleaning
- Where will there be hand sanitizers, tissues?

## Classrooms Practices

- When in classroom tell youth what to do vs not to do.
  - Instead of “Do not touch,” say “place hands in your lap.”
- What part can children do in cleaning their space, the items they alone have touched? Even if adult redoes after class?

### Room set-up:

- Disinfect room before and after class. Have a means for children to wash hands with soap and water as necessary or have hands sanitizer readily available.
- Ensure tissues are available in each classroom.
- How will you manage using the supplies safely?
  - Consider creating a supply box for each child. Color code - marking with a symbol all the items of one kit to assist youth in identifying supplies belonging to their kit.
- Where will items to be sanitized be placed.
  - Who will do this? When?
  - How will items be returned to the appropriate classroom?

### Arrival:

**Set a designated drop off point - see Creating a Check-in Desk above.**

- Set/adjust arrival time.
  - What will be your late arrival practice?
  - If they arrive late, are you willing to say, “we are unable to accommodate adding children to our classrooms at this time.”
  - Where does the child go then? with parent?
- Mark que with 6 feet apart wait points.
- Have a staff member or volunteer sign-in children and escort them to a hand washing station then directly to their classroom.
- Have one adult drop off child(ren). The same adult is to pick up child(ren).
- Keep accurate attendance records. Include the adults working with the youth. Ensure you have current family and volunteer contact information.

### Pre-session:

- Be prepared for youth the moment they enter the classroom.
- This means all staff there and ready to go 30 minutes before class begins.

## Sacred circle:

- Forgo large opening circle with mixed classrooms. Instead hold with smaller, single class.
- Change any practices that required children to touch the same item such as a talking stick or love offering basket.

## Lesson Content Suggestion

- Connection/Community building
- Prayer
- Meditation
- Applying Spiritual Law to life
- Topics that address potential issues
  - Self-Awareness-Feelings
  - Loneliness
  - Fear
  - Worry/Anxiety
  - Depression/Grief
  - Patience
  - Communication
- Science and Spirituality

## Exploration/Debrief

- Ask questions
- Allow for interaction/discussion

## Creative Expression

- Select activities that do not require touching another person, one's own face or a common object.
- Create a supply box/bag for each child. Consider color coding marking with a symbol all the items of one kit to assist youth in identifying supplies belonging to their kit.
  - Who will create these? Do the children take them home and return? How will you keep them sanitized?

## Closing

- Do not bring the youth into the adult service. Consider videoing them in.

## Snacks

- Do not serve snacks.
  - However, if you do have snack serve individual wrapped items or individual servings.
- No family style or self-serving dishes, including drinks.
- No homemade snacks.
- Wear gloves in food prep.
- Have bottled water available in case it is needed.

## Departure

- Set a designated pick up point.
- Set/adjust pick-up time.
- Mark que with 6 feet apart wait points.
- Place loose items going home with child in a bag.
- Have youth wash their hands.
- Have a staff member or volunteer escort youth directly to the adult picking them up. (Adult picking them up should be the same adult that dropped them off)

## Nursery – Or Consider not offering nursery care for now

- Divide area in nursery to physically separate children.
- Set a limit on the number of children you are able to care for.
- Request parents/guardian to changing diapers. Where will they do this? How will you notify them?
- No feeding or snacks.
- No diaper bags. Request items needed for the child's care put in a clear plastic bag labeled with child's name. Minimize the items brought from home.

## Consider the Following

- Offering an online parenting class to help keep parents connected
- Create materials for parents to use at home
- Phase in the YFM Program
  - Stagger the start of the in-person program. Start with the oldest students only as they are better equipped to understand the safety requirements.
  - Then add the younger age groups as you feel comfortable

- Children will have different at-home experiences so it will affect how they show up in the classroom.
- Communication is ESSENTIAL!
- Pay attention to the recommendations of:
  - CDC
  - School opening plans in your area
  - Camp opening plans in your area