



## Considerations for returning to religious education programs and indoor spaces:

- **Space and Masks:** Is there space for nonfamilial children to be 3 ft apart? Will you require masks be worn by children 3 and older, and adults? Will you require both space/masks?
- **Supplies to consider for purchase:** latex gloves, disposable masks for adults and children, hand sanitizer, Lysol spray/wipes.
- **Letter to Parents/Caregivers:** When you announce the beginning of your programs, send a letter to families to let know of any new practices. You might invite the families to visit the space you're using, or create a video that they can watch together before they come back to meeting. Introduce new adults working with children.
- **Vaccinations:** Does the meeting have a policy regarding vaccinations for volunteers or employees? To protect those most vulnerable, do you want to recommend vaccinations for anyone who works with children? If you share space with a Friends school or child care center, how does your practice align with theirs? Along with this, you might consider keeping attendance for contact tracing.
- **Consider clearing the room of soft objects:** Because germs tend to stick on soft surfaces longer and harder to clean, consider removing pillows and rugs. Replace rugs or carpet squares with an easy to wipe down material like inexpensive yoga mats cut in 1/2 or 1/3.
- **Individual Art Materials:** Consider having prepared art materials on a tray or tub for each child/family unit, so that children aren't using the same materials handled by others.
- **Pastoral Care for Children:** There may be children who experience some social/emotional signs of distress returning to places that feel brand new after a long hiatus. This past year+ many young children were with a parent or caregiver 24/7, and there may be separation anxiety. How can you make your space comfortable for those that might be sad or missing parent/caregiver? Having a greeter assigned to the space, along with the Friend leading, helps prepare for this support.
- **After the children leave:** Studies indicate that the Coronavirus does not live more than 72 hours on surfaces. If your materials (including Godly Play/Faith & Play stories) are only used one day a week you would not have to re-clean. You might create a 'used' or 'to be cleaned' shelf that can hold anything that needs cleaning later.
- **Cleaning:**
  - Use 3/4 cup of bleach and one gallon of water mixture (follow the directions on the bleach for mixture) or bleach wipes. Use this to spray or wipes on items that need to be sanitized. Air dry or leave on for several minutes.
  - Lysol spray can be used on the sand in a Godly Play desert box, felt pieces, and any other materials that cannot be wiped or sprayed down with the bleach mixture.