



June 30, 2020

Dear Local Children's Ministries Leaders,

Thank you for leadership and your willingness to search for new and creative ways to reach our children during this pandemic. I'd like to encourage you to keep up the good work and continue following state procedures as you safely resume ministry activities.

Summer is here and with that typically comes Vacation Bible School (VBS) time. But this is anything but a typical year. Here are a few ways churches are proceeding:

1. **Hosting an online VBS program** (original, shared, or repackaged content). You are welcome to repackage any of the English or Spanish Children's Week of Prayer materials from <https://youtube.com/washconf>. Additionally, the North American Division is providing an online VBS Home edition and Church edition premiering in 7 days.
2. **Postponing or canceling VBS** if your church is in Phase 1, 1.5 or 2. This is a tough decision. Make it a little easier by finding some way to send a little care package to your regular VBS attendees to let them know you care and so does Jesus.
3. **Proceeding with a VBS program with safety precautions in place** (for churches in Phase 3). Churches in Phase 3 may proceed with in-person VBS programs without high risk personnel.

Please keep in mind, as you record an online VBS program or produce an in-person VBS program, that there is a statewide order for individuals to wear a face covering in indoor public spaces and outdoor public spaces when you can't stay six feet apart from others. (There are some mask exemptions including people with certain disabilities or health conditions, people who are deaf and children under the age of 2.)

If you are filming: Your film production crew needs to wear masks; your on-camera talent may remove their masks for their portion of the program and then wear a mask off-camera. Keep your production simple with a limited number of people. Sanitize microphones between users, keep your high touch surfaces clean, and screen volunteers. Similar safety precautions are advisable for in-person VBS programs.

As leaders, we need to set a safe example for our community and our children. Please take precautions in how you and your team resume children's ministry activities at your local church. We are in this together to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for being an instrument in God's hands!

Nitza Salazar

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