**Missouri Mid-South Conference Board of Directors**

**Covid Safety Policy for Conference-Sponsored Gatherings**

**Updated February 7, 2023**

The Missouri Mid-South Conference Board of Directors is committed to empowering all our churches and members to be in covenant and communion with one another across the Conference. As the Covid-19 virus and its impacts move from a pandemic into an endemic state, our planning for Conference-sponsored gatherings must also shift. Our duty to care for one another has not changed, but the ways in which we meet that duty are also shaped by the contexts in which we live when we are not gathered as a Conference. We bring the strengths and risk factors of those contexts with us into our shared spaces. At this stage in the evolution of the virus, no single policy can apply effectively to all Conference gatherings and all contexts in which we gather. Above all, we must seek to care for one another using pandemic-informed approaches to building community.

For any given Conference-sponsored event, the purpose of that event will define the need for specific Covid mitigation practices. The organizer(s) of a Conference-sponsored event shall be responsible to gauge the need for precautions and set requirements for that event as they see fit, relying on current credible public health data such as CDC recommendations and community transmission information. Requirements for masking, testing, vaccination, and other transmission-prevention measures shall be determined at the organizers’ discretion, and clearly stated in the registration process. When possible and appropriate, online participation options should be made available.

The Board of Directors will support event organizers’ clear and consistent establishment of Covid mitigation practices for their event. If public health conditions change, the Board may choose to reintroduce certain restrictions for in-person gatherings, including requiring masking, testing, vaccination, or other transmission-prevention measures before or during the event. The Board will not lessen requirements set by event organizers.

As a standard practice of Christian covenant, we encourage all event attendees to consider the impact of their choices and actions on those with whom they will gather, including fellow participants, Conference and facility staff, other facility guests, etc. We strongly urge all event attendees to prioritize staying up to date on Covid vaccinations, to take care to minimize the risk of exposure to Covid in the week prior to attending a Conference-sponsored event, and not to attend the event if feeling unwell.

All participants in Conference-sponsored events are expected to understand the risks of in-person gatherings, and must assume responsibility for their voluntary participation and any potential transmission risk. We ask that all event participants approach gathering with grace, being intentional about full inclusion in community all those who are gathered, showing consideration for all participants’ personal comfort levels, and allowing for physical distancing as needed.

**Camp MoVal – Communicable Illness Camper Safety Plan**

**February 7, 2023**

The Missouri Mid-South Conference Board of Directors, in conversation with Camp MoVal staff, is putting this plan in place to help keep all campers, staff, and guests healthy and well throughout their time at Camp MoVal and when they return home. The goal is to keep Camp MoVal able to provide overnight camp throughout the whole summer. What happens in one week will impact the next week, so these guidelines are in place to ensure that we can meet this goal together.

**VACCINATIONS:**

* Because all camp programs hold a potential for transmission of communicable diseases, we recommend that program participants are appropriately immunized for, at minimum, the following diseases: Covid-19, tetanus, mumps, measles, rubella, polio, varicella (chicken pox), pertussis (whooping cough), and diphtheria*.*
* According to the US Centers for Disease Control, vaccinations are one of the best tools we have to combat Covid. The CDC recommends everyone stay up to date with Covid vaccines for their age group.
  + **All staff members and adult volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated for Covid** with an up to date booster along with other required vaccinations to keep campers, fellow staff members, and guests as safe as possible.
  + While Covid vaccinations are not a requirement for campers this summer, **we strongly encourage each camper to be up to date on recommended Covid vaccinations and boosters**.
* In the registration process, families will be required to share immunization records and a statement from the custodial parent/guardian attesting that all immunizations required for school are up to date. (The Missouri list of required vaccinations for school can be found [here](https://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/immunizations/pdf/MOSchoolImmunizationRequirements0-18YearsofAge.pdf).)
  + If a family declines to provide this information, Camp MoVal will assume that a child is not up to date with required school vaccinations.
  + If the child is not up to date with required school vaccinations, Camp MoVal may deny the camper from attending camp.

**BEFORE CAMP:**

* We encourage each camper to limit their exposure to people outside of their household to the best extent possible in the week leading up to their time at camp.
* In the days leading up to camp, we encourage families to monitor each child’s health closely.
* If your child is demonstrating *any* illness symptoms, or is feeling unwell, or tests positive for Covid in the days leading up to camp, please contact the camp to discuss options for rescheduling or refunding your registration.
* We encourage all campers to take a rapid test the day they are coming to camp. Keeping Covid out of camp is our priority. Camp MoVal also has rapid tests available at registration if any camper or family would like to take a test when they arrive.
* Every camper will be required to complete a health screening on arrival. If the child does not pass any portion of the screening they will be denied entrance to camp. The health professional will provide parameters for returning to camp.
  + If community spread levels are high, Camp MoVal may require all campers to take a rapid test on arrival.
* If a child has tested positive during the week before camp, they will need to have isolated for five days and show a negative Covid test upon arrival at camp. As per CDC guidelines, campers will need to wear a mask in all public spaces for the ten days after the onset of symptoms. In this case, our preference is that the camp session is postponed until later in the summer.

**CANCELLATION & PAYMENTS**

* **There is a 100% refund for camp registration fee if a family cancels because of illness/Covid in the household in advance of arrival.** If your child is unwell or tests positive for Covid in the days prior to camp, please call Camp MoVal to move the registration forward to another week of the summer where there is space. If this is not possible, a full refund will be given.
* If you know that you will need to cancel a registration, please let the camp office know right away, so another child can fill the spot.

**OVERNIGHT CAMP:**

* It is important to note that when a child attends overnight camp, they are now considered to be in a “household” with the other members of their cabin, as they are sleeping, eating, and spending time with one another without masks.
* If any overnight camper displays any symptoms of illness while at camp, they will be isolated under the supervision of the camp nurse or other appropriate staff. Parents/Guardians will be contacted and consulted. A rapid test will be given. If the test result is positive, the camper must leave camp. If negative, the camper will remain isolated for four additional hours. If symptoms disappear, the camper may re-join their cabin. If the symptoms persist, the camper must leave camp.
* If a positive test result happens in an overnight cabin, campers who are up to date with their vaccinations or who have tested positive for Covid in the last ninety days will continue to participate in the session, with masking, cohorting within the cabin, and symptom monitoring. Campers who are not up to date on their vaccinations and have not tested positive for Covid in the last ninety days may be expected to return home.
* If a positive test result happens in an overnight cabin, the families of the other campers in the cabin will be contacted. Parents may choose to pick up their child from camp.

**MASKS**

* Campers will always be welcome and encouraged to wear masks indoors. Campers should bring several masks with them to camp, for their personal use. Sharing/exchanging of masks will not be permitted.
* Masks are not required outdoors, except where staff and campers are in close contact for a prolonged period. At Camp MoVal we endeavor to be outdoors as much as possible.
* Masking is not required in the cabins with cabin mates (their household cohort).
* Masking may be required indoors if multiple cohorts are in the same indoor space for a prolonged period.
* Masking and physical distancing may be required depending on community illness levels.

Questions and concerns about the guidelines in this safety plan should be directed to Camp MoVal staff.