

CORRECTION: Addenda - May 18, 2021

Safe and Sound: Guidelines and Procedures for Holding On-site Parish Religious Education and Youth Ministry Programs.

As time progresses, more information will arise and will require new additions to *Safe and Sound: Guidelines and Procedures for Holding On-site Parish Religious Education and Youth Ministry Programs.*

These procedures are put into place to help ensure the safety and well-being of the young people and adult leaders. All procedures are required to be followed if hosting on-site religious education and/or youth ministry.

Summer Guidelines

- **Enjoy the outdoors!** This summer is a great time to plan activities with young people outside.
- **Increase in gathering numbers.** Effective May 19, 2021, capacity for indoor non-essential gatherings is 250 people and for outdoor gatherings is 500 person. Both are subject to ensuring 6 foot physical distancing.
- The CDC states that if vaccinated, young people and adults can take their masks off outside. **It is recommended since most of our young people are not vaccinated, that everyone keep their masks on.** This sets a good example and does not single people out.
- **Transportation:** Using cars still remains problematic because of the difficulty of ensuring 6' distancing within the vehicle. Transportation via buses permitted as long as you follow the bus company's COVID guidelines.
- **Overnight Events with High School Youth:** Overnight events with high school students can occur although the facilities and activities **must** be vetted through the youth ministry office to ensure COVID guidelines can be followed.

What to Expect for the Fall of 2021

As we increase the percentage of people being vaccinated, guidelines from the CDC and NY State are updating regularly. We cannot tell you exactly what the guidelines will be for the fall but we can give you some guidance to help in your planning. All guidelines will be subject to the NY State protocols.

- **Make a plan** for resuming some form of in-person parish religious education and youth ministry, however, see this as an opportunity to modify your programs by capitalizing on what you learned and loved about formation this past year. For example:
 - Did your parents benefit from being highly engaged in the formation of their young person?
 - Did the hybrid program provide good formation while meeting the time needs of your families?
 - Did your teenagers enjoy meeting in small groups online for Bible studies or other discussion groups?
- **Anticipate still engaging in many of the Safe and Sound guidelines** such as doing temperature checks and questionnaires, wearing masks, and special cleaning protocols.
- **CORRECTION: For the parishes that use a Catholic school for their gatherings:** the Catholic schools are planning to be fully open in the fall, however you will still need to follow their cleaning and desk protocols. Please work closely with school leadership to make a plan.