

Plan for Restarting Preteen Youth Group in 2022

At First Pres, our highest priority is keeping children safe. Although we have a great desire to continue offering a preteen youth group program on Wednesday evenings this winter, we are also concerned about the recent rise in COVID cases in La Crosse County. Therefore, in the interest of the students and their families, the Children & Youth Ministry Teams have voted to **delay the restart date of the preteen Youth Group until February 9, 2021**.

This tentative start date is pending that, at that time, the CDC reports a clear downward trend of COVID cases in La Crosse County over at least 7 days. (NOTE: [please follow this link to see where we are retrieving the data on which our decision is based](#)).

In addition to delaying our start date, **we will also implement new safety measures for the next session (5 meetings) of preteen youth group, including...**

- Requiring participants to either...
 - A. “Double-mask” with a three-ply surgical mask (inner layer) and a cloth mask (outer layer) (NOTE: we plan to provide child-size surgical masks)
 - B. Or...wear a single KN-95/N-95 mask
- Shortening the meeting to 1.5 hours (5:30-7:00PM)
- Spread students out during dinner
- Involving outdoor play in the snow for at least 30 minutes of each meeting (weather permitting), so bring snow-pants, gloves, jackets, etc.!

Please note that we have not made this decision lightly. We are truly grateful for each and every student we were able to serve this fall and we are looking forward to gathering with them again! **In the meantime, I will reach out to your student with postcards and phone calls to stay connected with them.**

Alex Jerve

Director of Youth Ministry & Interim Director of Children’s Ministry