

SAFE SANCTUARIES FOR COMMUNITY HOTSPOTS

BEFORE YOU SAY “YES!”

CONNECTION

- Why are you considering this ministry? Does it align with your mission and vision?
- Who is your target group? What are their needs: spiritual, emotional, physical, technology?
- Do you have infrastructure to meet those needs? People, speed, space?
- How will you address where guests are going on their computers?

CAPACITY

- What is the size of the space you anticipate utilizing?
- How many might the space hold with social distancing, workspaces, cords, etc?
- Remember to include volunteers in your capacity count!
- What is your electrical capability?
- What are limitations based on governmental/denominational/local church guidelines?
- What hours/days is the space available?

CLEANLINESS

- Do you have appropriate supplies for participants, volunteers?
 - Extra masks
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Anti-bacterial wipes
 - Thermometer
 - Log for contact tracing
- Appropriate cleaning supplies for the surfaces? Anti-bacterial and anti-viral
- Who is going to clean? How often?

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Food and drink
- Video/zoom calls — masked?
- Health conditions that preclude mask-wearing?

SAFE SANCTUARIES FOR COMMUNITY HOTSPOTS

ONCE YOU HAVE SAID “YES!”

CONNECTION

- Train your volunteers.
 - How do they follow your Safe Sanctuaries policy and procedures?
 - Which online learning platforms or video conferencing services are your local schools utilizing: Canvas, NCEd, SeeSaw, Zoom? Volunteers should have a solid understanding of the technology so they can assist students.
 - What responsibilities do they have to clean the space?
 - Supervision vs. Teaching: Volunteers will only be expected to monitor the space and offer assistance, not teach.
- Communicate clearly with parents and guardians.
 - What should students bring with them?
 - What can parents/guardians expect? What will the program look like? How will families benefit from participating?
 - What will drop off and pick up protocols look like? Who is approved to pick up the student?
 - Are there expectations regarding attendance? When and how often can students participate? Do they need to sign up in advance? If so, how?
 - Medical Concerns and Standards: What standards and procedures are in place for medical concerns? For example, a student with a temperature of 100.4 will be sent home and not permitted to return until they have been fever-free for 72 hours.

CAPACITY

- Remain adaptable to student needs.
- Just because you can does not mean you should.

CLEANLINESS

- We will never know if we were too cautious; we will only know if we were not cautious enough.
- Door handles, chairs, commodes, sink handles, work surfaces, any shared items (not recommended), air filters, arrangement of workspaces, etc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Western NC Conference COVID-19 Guidelines for Ministry: <https://www.wnccumc.org/covid>
- Western NC Conference Safe Sanctuaries resources: <https://www.wnccumc.org/safesanctuaries>
- Discipleship Ministries: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/equipping-leaders/safe-sanctuaries>