



## Welcome Families!

We are excited for our upcoming Awana year! We are looking forward to getting to know each of you and welcoming you into our Awana family. This year comes with a few changes and challenges.

**Our registrations will be done online. To register please visit [www.elkplain.org/Awana.html](http://www.elkplain.org/Awana.html).**

Due to COVID-19 we have had to change some of our health and safety policies to ensure our students and staff are as safe as possible and have a great learning environment. Please understand the information comes from state standards so it sounds a little formal, but our desire is to do our best to provide a normal club night for our students. You will find this information on the next few pages.

To help with safety precautions we are changing the club meeting time:

**Wednesday evenings 6:15- 7:30**

If you have any questions please contact Diana Bassi, at 253-312-8725 or

[dbassi@outlook.com](mailto:dbassi@outlook.com)

or

Elk Plain Community Church

253-847-2508, leave a voicemail and we will get back to you.

You can also visit our Facebook page: Elk Plain Community Church Awana



## Health and Safety Guidelines for Elk Plain Community Church Awana

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has provided guidance for student and staff health and safety. The DOH will update this guidance as needed.

*It is our goal to provide a healthy and safe environment for our students and staff. Due to COVID-19 we have had to develop some new guidelines. Even though we have instituted the following new guidelines and have increased our cleaning procedures we cannot assure that your student will not get sick. In choosing to have your kids attend Awana we want you to be aware of this risk.*

### What we can do to help stop the spread:

#### Healthy Procedures at Drop-Off and Pick-Up

**Drop-Off:** *We must do a verbal health screening with you before kids enter. Please use physical distancing while waiting.*

*We cannot allow staff or students to attend club with the symptoms listed below. We will ask you if your child has had any of the following:*

- **A cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Chills or a fever of 100.4°F or higher or a sense of having a fever in the past 3 days**
- **A sore throat or a new loss of taste or smell**
- **Muscle or body aches or unusual fatigue**
- **Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea**
- **Congestion/running nose – not related to seasonal allergies**
- **Your student been in close contact with anyone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19**
- **Your student recently had any medication to reduce a fever**

Staff and students cannot attend if the answer yes to any of the above symptoms.

*Please do a quick temperature check before you leave home so that you are aware of your child's temperature. We would rather you catch this at home, so we do not have to turn anyone away at the door.*

*During our check-in, we will have your student use the restroom and wash their hands, or use hand sanitizer before they enter.*

*At this time, we cannot have parents in the classroom, please drop them off at the door.*

**Pick-Up:** *We will need to change our pick-up process this year as our normal pick-up was for parents to come inside. Instead, parents come one at a time to the door and we will bring your kids to you. Please practice distancing.*



## **What we do if Someone Develops Signs of COVID-19**

If a student or staff member develops signs of COVID-19 we separate the person away from others, with supervision, at a distance of six feet, until the sick person can leave. We ask that the staff or student's parent or caregiver inform Awana staff right away if the person is diagnosed with COVID-19.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the local health jurisdiction will advise, but it is likely that many of the student's classmates will be considered close contacts and may need to be quarantined for 14 days depending on proximity and timeline.

## **Returning After Having Suspected Signs of COVID-19**

A staff member or student who had signs of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can return to the program when:

- At least three days have passed since recovery – (no fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory signs like cough and shortness of breath); AND at least 10 days have passed since signs first showed up
- OR, it has been at least three days since recovery AND a health care provider has certified that the student does not have suspected or confirmed COVID-19

If a person believes they have had close contact to someone with COVID-19, but they are not sick, they should watch their health for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other COVID-19 symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the person sick with COVID-19.

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## **Awana staff will work to provide a healthy and safe environment:**

### **Grouping Students**

*Students will meet in classrooms with their dedicated staff. Multiple groups of students may use the same facility (gym, Fireside Room) if they are in limited contact with other groups. We will do our best to practice physical distancing within each group of students.*

We may consider physical distancing strategies such as:

- Eliminating multi class activities, class parties, special performances, field trips, etc. until restrictions lift
- Large group activities can be held outdoors or in a large well-ventilated space and with fewer people than usual to allow even greater physical distance between students
- Increase the space between tables. Rearrange student tables to maximize the space between students. Turn tables to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other) to reduce transmission caused from virus-containing droplets (i.e. from talking, coughing, sneezing)
- Limit nonessential visitors
- Keep students outside more, as weather and space permits



## Snacks

- Clean and sanitize tables before and after each group eats, using washable tables and chairs
- Limit gatherings and potential mixing of classes or groups during snack
- Consider having students take their snack outside or in the classroom using physical distancing

## Hygiene Practices

Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Children and adults should wash hands when they arrive at school, before meals or snacks, after outside time, after going to the bathroom, after nose blowing or sneezing, and before leaving to go home. Help young children to make sure they are doing it right.

Teach children (and adults) not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand gel with at least 60 percent alcohol and preferably fragrance-free. Supervise use of alcohol-based hand gel by young children. Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, and then throw the tissue in the trash. Clean hands with soap and water or hand gel.

## Face Coverings

We are asking that each student wear a face mask. However, we do understand the challenges this may present given the ages or health conditions of some of your kids. Our plan is to also use physical distancing and teach healthy hygiene habits to help stop the spread. Parents please let us know any concerns with your kids wearing a mask.

Teachers will wear a clear face shield or a mask when required by the state.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

- Cleaning removes germs, dirt, food, body fluids, and other material
- Cleaning increases the benefit of sanitizing or disinfecting
- Sanitizing reduces germs on surfaces to levels that are safe
- Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces of a clean object
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates sanitizer and disinfectant chemicals. If you sanitize or disinfect without cleaning first, it will reduce how well these chemicals work and may leave more germs on the surface

## Carpets

Vacuumed daily (when children are not present) and we will also do our best to space students out on the carpet for circle times.

## Outdoor Areas

Outdoor areas, like playgrounds in schools and parks, generally require normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection.



## **Ventilation**

Ventilation is important to have good indoor air quality. Offer more outside time, open windows often, and adjust the HVAC system to allow the maximum amount of outside air to enter the program space. Use of fans for cooling is acceptable. They should blow away from people. There is no special cleaning or disinfection for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

## **Shared Hands-On Teaching Materials**

Clean and sanitize hands-on materials often and after each use. Limit shared teaching materials to those you can easily clean and sanitize or disinfect.

- Children's books and other paper-based materials are not high risk for spreading the virus
- Provide individual supplies, crafts, and playdough for students