



PREPARES

Pregnancy & Parenting Support

September Newsletter 2020

Holy Spirit, inspire and ignite in us, your people a spirit of creativity and openness, so that through PREPARES we might serve families in our community safely, humbly and effectively all to build your Kingdom and to uphold the value and dignity of every life.

Amen

PREPARES Phased Re-Opening Guide

Below you will find a PREPARES Phased Re-Opening Guide. We welcome your ideas and hope you will share the ways you have found success with new approaches to serving our moms and families in need!

This document is an effort at detailing how re-opening PREPARES activities can happen at your parish, and that is the key: your parish guidelines and the pastor's directives will dictate your team's ability to respond to requests and provide resources to families in your community. Similarly, each volunteer must decide for themselves when they feel safe resuming or "opening" for active ministry. Everyone's health, from our volunteers to our pregnant and parenting moms, is of utmost importance! We encourage you to get in touch with us to ask questions, to stay in communication with your lead volunteer, and to reimagine how your PREPARES activities might resume or adapt to our new normal. This is the time for creativity and innovation!

Don't be afraid to try something new, but do consult with your Area Coordinator and consider the preferences of each individual volunteer before moving forward with opening aspects of your ministry. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of coordinating with parish leadership and within your team! Also, remember that all activities of PREPARES, on behalf of Catholic Charities, must be conducted in line with state and local health department guidelines, i.e. mask wearing, hand washing/hand sanitizing, and social distancing.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
<p>No gatherings allowed, high risk populations advised to stay home</p>	<p>Gather with no more than 5 people outside your household per week, outdoor recreation with no more than 5 people outside your household, with use of recommended personal protective equipment-PPE -and social distancing</p>	<p>Gatherings with no more than 50 people, outdoor rec with no more than 50 people, with use of recommended PPE and social distancing</p>	<p>High risk populations NOW allowed to resume public interactions with social distancing, with use of recommended PPE and social distancing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No active PREPARES volunteering Parent groups virtual meetings Virtual companion communications (phone/text) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companion communications that are virtual or socially distanced and with masks Parent groups virtual meetings Boutique operates with limited hours and occupancy (provide disposable masks and hand sanitizer) Contactless essential needs deliveries or pick-ups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donation drives resume Regular companion visits resume In-person parent groups resume Boutique resumes normal operations Essential needs deliveries or pick-ups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donation Drives Regular Companion visits In person parent groups High risk populations resume in-person volunteering activities

Volunteers, anyone?

Do you know anyone who might want to volunteer with us? We have shifted to virtual training, and we are ready! The need has never been greater. Have interested Catholic friends call **509. 946.4645**. Thanks!



Prayer

We bless your name, O Lord, for sending your own incarnate Son, to become part of a family, so that, as he lived its life, he would experience its worries and its joys. We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over our families, so that in the strength of your grace its members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Hello, dear volunteers and friends of PREPARES!

PREPARES has been swiftly making changes to address the needs of families during the pandemic. We are distributing diapers through community partners, accepting donations by mail, and training volunteers online.

We are happy to welcome **Sandra Barrós** to the PREPARES team. Sandra is the Evangelization and Faith Formation Director for the diocese, and she is such a blessing for us! Sandra is working primarily with Spanish-speaking volunteers to deepen their faith, and encourage participation in ministry. She is also helping us raise the profile of PREPARES among the parishes.



These are trying times. Please know that we staff think about all of you volunteers daily, remembering the challenges you are facing, and coming up with ways to connect with you, such as a series of short retreats which will launch in September. If you feel as if your ministry is stalled, call us up! If we can help in any way, call us up!

God's blessings of health, joy, and peace to you all,
Your PREPARES team *Syndee, Ann, Alma, and Yolanda.*

A program of

