

# FAQ: VIRTUAL LEARNING SITES

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS THE VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY? In response to schools that are not returning to in-person education, the YMCA is offering virtual learning academies to support students and provide quality care during the hours they typically would be in school.
2. HOW WILL THE VIRTUAL LEARNING CENTERS SUPPORT STUDENTS? Students will be placed in a dedicated classroom/ space with small group learning pods to participate in their virtual learning classrooms, Group Leaders will be in each classroom/ dedicated space to support the student and reinforce attention to the teacher & screen.
3. WHERE WILL VIRTUAL LEARNING SITES BE HELD? The YMCA is working with local churches, businesses, and non-profit community organizations to host these programs.
4. WHAT AGES IS THIS FOR? We are able to serve K-8th grades.
5. WILL MEALS BE PROVIDED? The YMCA is partnering with the school district student nutrition services to provide meals to include breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack and supper.
6. WHAT IS THE COST TO FAMILIES FOR THIS?  
**As of December 30, 2020 children 5-12 years old of essential workers in Tennessee will receive care paid for through the Essential Workers childcare grant program. These workers must both live and work in Tennessee.**

Families must attend at least 3 times per week to continue enrollment at a site under this grant program.

If a family is not an essential worker, The YMCA is working with various funding sources to keep the weekly fee as low as possible. See below for pricing. Additional financial assistance may be available for families unable to pay one of the tiered pricing options based on income:

<b>\$120 per child/week</b>	<b>\$100 per child/week</b>	<b>\$85 per child/week</b>
Household income of \$50,000 +	Household income of \$30,000 - \$50,000	Less Than \$30,000 Household Income

7. HOW DO I APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE BEYOND TIERED PRICING? Please submit a request through the [Tuition Adjustment Request Form](#)
8. DO YOU HAVE TO BE AN ESSENTIAL WORKER TO ENROLL? This program is open to all community members and students, regardless of employment status or type.
9. WILL ESSENTIAL WORKERS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FREE CARE? The YMCA has worked with stakeholders across the state and is advocating for the extension of funding to support essential workers. Recent news is that the current funding will be in place through March 2021.
10. HOW WILL STUDENTS BE GROUPED? Students will be grouped by age and grade level throughout the day. Their time in the virtual learning lab may vary based on their class/school's virtual learning schedules. Social distancing will be strictly adhered to in the virtual learning lab and in all program areas.
11. CAN THE YMCA SERVE SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS? The Y works hard to ensure all individuals are able to participate regardless of ability. We are not able to provide one-on-one aides or teachers, but offer smaller group sizes when possible with trained staff. We are looking to identify locations that can have established "classrooms" for special needs.
12. WHY CAN THE Y SAFELY OPERATE AND SCHOOLS CANNOT AT THIS TIME? Due to the enrollment of children per a location, the YMCA is able to serve children in small groups where school enrollment is much larger and harder to maintain small groups at this phase. The YMCA has been offering child care for essential workers since the beginning of the pandemic and has become well-versed in executing and maintaining all best practices. We partner with all our school districts to support them and their families!

#### **COVID-19 STANDARDS:**

- HEALTH SCREENS: All children and staff will be required to pass a health screening, including a temperature check and health screening questions.
- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE): The YMCA adheres to Shelby County Health Department recommendations and face coverings should be worn at all times by staff, children and parents/guardians who enter the building. Children will be provided with mask breaks.
- SMALL GROUPS: All children will be placed in small groups according to CDC recommended group sizes for children.
- SOCIAL DISTANCING: The YMCA will practice social distancing at all times.

- **CLEANING & SANITATION:** Increased cleaning of all program areas and equipment to limit the spread of germs. Stations are sanitized and disinfected throughout the day. In the case of a COVID-19 exposure, we contract with a cleaning company to fog the program site with COVID-19 level cleaning solutions.
- **COVID-19 EXPOSURE/POSITIVE TESTS:** The YMCA has created a comprehensive plan for response to a positive COVID-19 test or possible exposure. This plan has been developed in partnership with the Shelby County Health Department and follows all best practices.
- **ACTIVITY STATIONS:** Learning stations will be based on individual activities to minimize contact.
- **CURRICULUM:** All planned activities are designed to be non-contact, yet engaging.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The YMCA will use the Immediate Response Plan to communicate any confirmed exposures or positive COVID-19 tests of staff members or children.

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Virtual Learning Academies will offer a blend of virtual learning support, tutoring, enrichment opportunities and physical activities, as well as providing meals for students.

*Below is a sample day:*

6:30-7:30am: Opening centers & activities

7:30-8am: Breakfast & Core Day Student Arrival

8:00-11:30am: Virtual Academy / Enrichment Breakouts (depending on student schedule)

11:30am-12:15pm: Lunch & "Recess"

12:15-3pm: Virtual Academy / Enrichment Breakouts (depending on student schedule)

3:00pm: Core Day Students Dismissal

3-3:30pm: Afternoon snack

3:30-5:30pm: Enrichment & Tutoring

5:30-6:00pm: Closing centers (students offered an evening supper)