

FAQ: VIRTUAL LEARNING SITES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **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.
- **HOW WILL THE VIRTUAL LEARNING CENTERS SUPPORT STUDENTS?**
 - Students will be placed in a dedicated classroom with small group learning pods to participate in their virtual learning classrooms. Learning Coaches will be in each classroom to support the student and reinforce core concepts.
- **WHERE WILL VIRTUAL LEARNING SITES BE HELD?**
 - The YMCA is working with local churches, businesses, and non-profit, community organizations to host these programs.
- **WHAT AGES IS THIS FOR?**
 - We are able to serve K-8th grades.
- **WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM OPTIONS?**
 - Core Day: Students attend and participate in traditional school hours
 - Full Day: Provides families with the core day virtual learning support, as well as before/after school.
- **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.
- **WHAT IS THE COST TO FAMILIES FOR THIS?**
 - There is **no registration fee** to enroll in care.
 - The YMCA is working with various funding sources to keep the weekly fee as low as possible, as we know these are unanticipated expenses.
 - FULL DAY (6:30/7a-6p): \$120/week
 - CORE SCHOOL DAY (7:45a-3:15p): \$85/week
 - *Financial assistance and subsidy available.*
- **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.
- **WILL ESSENTIAL WORKERS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FREE CARE?**
 - The YMCA is advocating for the extension of funding to support essential workers. The current funding ends August 21, 2020. Updates will be provided regarding this.

- **HOW WILL STUDENTS BE GROUPED?**
 - Students will be grouped by age and grade level for the 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.
- **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.
- **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 and children. 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.

SAMPLE DAY

6:30 AM - 7:30 AM	Opening centers & activities
7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Breakfast & Core Day Student Arrival
8:15 AM - 11:30AM	Virtual Academy / Enrichment Breakouts (depending on student schedule)
11:30 AM - 12:15PM	Lunch & "Recess"
12:15 PM - 3:00PM	Virtual Academy / Enrichment Breakouts (depending on student schedule)
3:00 PM	Core Day Students Dismissal
3:00 PM - 3:30PM	Afternoon snack
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Enrichment & Tutoring
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Closing centers (students offered an evening supper)

STAFFING

Each site will have the following staff on site:

- **SITE DIRECTOR(S):** Supervising the program and program staff. Monitors for safety, program quality, and student achievement. Works closely with the church partner for communication and troubleshooting.
- **VIRTUAL LEARNING COACHES:** Monitor and support students in the virtual learning labs. Helps students complete lessons, reinforce core concepts, and stay on track.
- **GROUP LEADERS:** Supervise and lead children through general group activities including; enrichment, physical activity, meals, opening/closing centers. Floater group leaders will serve during the day for bathroom breaks, recess/activity breaks, and to maintain cleanliness.

Area/Regional Coordinators will supervise a cluster of sites to ensure program excellence and support operations.