

May 20, 2021

### Introduction

These recommendations are made based upon guidelines and other information available as of mid-May, 2021. The CDC announcement regarding being safe for vaccinated people to no longer wear masks in most outdoor and indoor situations is exciting. But, there remain considerable risks in these settings for people who have not been vaccinated.

We continue to care for and be concerned for all members of Lord of Love.

The recommendations are defined by stages.

We realize that these current recommendations are more cautious and restrictive than some people desire.

The recommendations may also introduce more risk faster than some people may prefer.

**The forecast timing and specific content of each stage is subject to change.**

The readiness for moving to the next stage to be determined by monthly review of identified indicators.

(results of studies and accompanying national, state and local guidance, increasing vaccinations, decreasing evidence of infection and severity of disease)

### Our Strategy

We will prayerfully move forward and relax or remove restrictions as:

- We continue to consider how to be the church for all of our members
- Guidance and other considerations change in a way that indicates overall declining risk to all persons
- Continued progress in virus vaccinations within our state and county
- 8 to 10 weeks following vaccination becoming an option for all age groups (age 3 and older)
- Decreasing or static levels of infection and covid-related hospitalizations within Douglas County

### Indoor Worship

STAGE	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3
Timing	May 30	mid-July to mid-August	mid-Sept to late-Oct
<b>Masks</b>	Required in deference to those not currently eligible for vaccination	Required in deference to those not currently eligible for vaccination	Required in deference to those not currently eligible for vaccination until all-age vaccination is option
<b>Distancing</b>	Reduced from 3 chairs to 2 Row spacing continues	Row spacing continues Distancing for those requesting it	Normal seating in place Potential to retain some distanced seating
<b>Registration</b>	Continues to support seating logistics	No longer required (if appropriate based on attendance trends)	Not needed
<b>Offering</b>	Remains stationary	Resume passing plates	Passing plates
<b>Singing</b>	Allowed for Closing hymn	Allowed for hymns and liturgy	Allowed for hymns and liturgy
<b>Communion</b>	Standard practices with in-place for those who want more cautious option	Standard practices with in-place for those who want more cautious option	Standard practices with in-place for those needing it

<b>Passing Peace</b>	Not included in worship	To be determined	To be determined
<b>Choir</b>	No change	Rehearsals without masks may resume, limit duration Recorded anthems used in worship	Consider allowing in-person anthems
<b>Brass</b>	No change	Rehearsals without masks may resume Recorded special music used in worship	Consider allowing live music options

### ***Non-Worship Indoor Activities***

<b>STAGE</b>	<b>STAGE 1</b>	<b>STAGE 2</b>	<b>STAGE 3</b>
<b>Timing</b>	<b>June 1</b>	<b>mid-July to mid-August</b>	<b>mid-Sept to late-Oct</b>
<b>Masks</b>	Encouraged for all Required for non-vaccinated Group meetings must adopt most conservative mask wearing position for attendees	Encouraged for all Required for non-vaccinated Group meetings must adopt most conservative mask wearing position for attendees	Encouraged for all in deference to those ineligible for vaccination Group meetings must adopt most conservative mask wearing position for attendees
<b>Distancing</b>	Encouraged to continue May suspend upon agreement of all attendees	Encouraged to continue May suspend upon agreement of all attendees	No longer required unless requested by any attendee
<b>Facility Setup</b>	Must be reset to original set-up if modified for activity	Must be reset to original set-up if modified for activity	Must be reset to original set-up if modified for activity
<b>Food</b>	Outside food may be brought to share with others	Outside food may be brought to share with others	Food preparation is allowed
<b>Kitchen</b>	Not to be used	Open for limited use	Available for use

#### **Considerations and Basis For Lessening Restrictions:**

- Guidance from CDC and other scientific study oriented bodies
- Guidance and regulations from state and local officials
- Guidance from church bodies
- Findings from scientific aerosol studies
  - Recommendations for mitigating actions arising from study findings
- Progress in vaccinating the public and how local virus cases and hospitalizations are affected
  - Increasing number of age groups eligible to be vaccinated

- Increased vaccination percentages should be reflected in decreasing number of new cases, test positivity rates, hospitalizations, and death
- Awareness of congregation member vaccination opportunity, obstacles, and status
- Determining a point at which risks and responsibility shift away from the church to individuals
- Duration of activities (Worship, Meetings, Rehearsals, etc.)
  - Increasing length of time for interactions increases the amount of risk.
    - Studies show that the length of exposure to the virus can affect severity of symptoms and the overall disease, particularly in interactions over 10 minutes in length
    - Instrumental/Vocal guidelines call for a 20 minute break every 30 minutes of rehearsal
  - HVAC system modifications and effectiveness in filtration and airborne virus removal
- Effectiveness of Masks
  - Studies show that when worn properly, masks are effective in reducing release and exposure to airborne virus particles
  - Wearing masks protect others by reducing amount and dispersion distance of vapor released by the wearer when breathing, speaking, singing, etc - NOTE the louder the vocal action, amount of generated vapor increases and has farther reach
  - Wearing masks protect the wearer by reducing risk of infection from breathing virus-laden air
- Effectiveness of Vaccines
  - Studies show that covid vaccines are more than 90% effective in protecting against disease
  - The vaccines have been shown to be effective against variants
  - Getting vaccinated protects others as it is unlikely a vaccinated persons who becomes infected will pass the disease along to others (level of vaccine in nasal area is significantly lower in vaccinated persons)
  - Getting vaccinated protects yourself by significantly reducing symptoms and the risk of serious disease