

Trinity Parish – RETURN TO IN PERSON WORSHIP SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Although cases of COVID are declining in our community, newer mutations of the virus are emerging in Tennessee that are more contagious and potentially more deadly.

These new variants spreading in the United States appears to latch onto our cells more efficiently, meaning that it takes less virus and less time in the same room with an infected person for someone to become ill. In addition, people infected with the variant may also shed larger quantities of virus, which increases the risk to people around them.

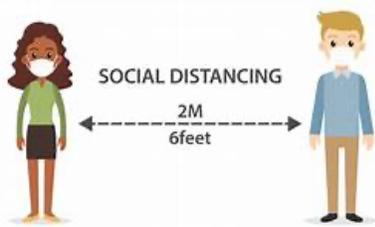
*As we move to in-person worship, the safety and welfare of **all**, visitors and members of Trinity are our highest priority. Therefore we request that you read and follow these safety guidelines.*

Safety Guidelines

These guidelines are important for your safety and the safety of others.

The following guidelines were developed with the assistance of Dr. Larry Faust and Dr. Quentin Humberd and based on the most current information from the CDC, International Society of Infectious Disease, Tennessee Department of Health, and peer reviewed professional medical journals.

Social Distancing



Everyone must maintain a minimum space of 6 feet between others at all times. This includes in the parking lot and in doorways when entering or leaving buildings.

While outside spaces are felt to be safer than inside, several studies have demonstrated that covid sized particles can travel several feet with a gentle breeze. Thus, we ask that parishioners and visitors continue to wear their masks and practice social distancing when outside as well as indoors.

Masks

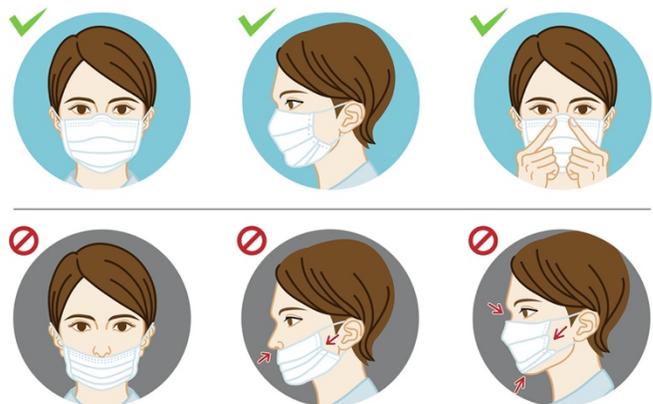
Proper masks* must be worn at all times by adults and children over 2 while on the premises.

Masks must cover the entire face from bridge of nose to below the chin. They must fit snugly against the face with no gaps on the sides.

*Proper Masks

The emergence of highly transmissible coronavirus mutations in the United States has public health experts urging Americans to examine and upgrade their masks. Options are a well fitted N95 or KN95 mask, a cloth masks that is double or triple layered (preferably with a filter between the layers), or double mask. Double masking means wearing two well-fitting single layer masks or a single cloth mask underneath a surgical mask.

Loose fitting paper masks and bandanas are not acceptable. Masks with breathing valves are not acceptable because these valves allowed expired air into the environment and offer no protection to other individuals. Face shields are not acceptable since they are open on the sides and bottom unless they are worn as an adjunct to a proper mask underneath.



Hand Hygiene

COVID can be transferred from one surface to another by contaminated hands. Therefore visitors and parishioners are asked to practice strict hand hygiene and use provided hand sanitizers on entering the church and refrain from touching their mask and eyes.

General

We ask that if you, anyone in your household, or any close contacts in your environment are sick or experiencing any **COVID symptoms**, please stay home and view our online services at the [Trinity YouTube Channel](#).

We request that you notify our Trinity staff if you develop any COVID symptoms after attended any of our church functions.

COVID Symptoms

- Fever or chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches or pains
- Cough, runny nose, sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Registration and Reserved Seating:

The ushers will seat individuals and households according to specific seating guidelines to assure proper social and safe distance. Everyone who attends in person worship must register online or by calling the church office. To register online, [click here](#).

**Those who are FULLY vaccinated (having received both shots) may be asked if they are comfortable sitting with other FULLY vaccinated individuals or households. Please let the usher know upon arrival if you are fully vaccinated AND comfortable sharing a pew with other fully vaccinated attendee(s).*

Holy Eucharist – PROTOCOL FOR RECEIVING COMMUNION

All ministers and parishioners will be properly masked at all times. The priest stands behind the altar and the Eucharistic ministers who have been fully vaccinated stand socially distant to each side. Following the invitation to communion:

- The priest will intinct and gently reach under her mask to consume the wafer receiving Communion in both kinds.
- Once the priest has received Holy Communion, she will place the patens on each side of the altar.
- The Eucharistic ministers take communion themselves, sanitize their hands, and move to the railings with their patens.
- The ushers send communicants to the altar rails by household, with one household per rail at any given time, assuring social distancing.
- The communicants will **stand** avoiding touching the railings and hold out their hand to receive the bread.
- Having sanitized their hands, the Eucharistic minister will drop a consecrated wafer into the hands of each communicant avoiding touching of hands.
- The communicants can then reach under their mask to consume the wafer and return to their seats.