

## Interim Guidance for Gathering at Trinity August 2021

As the COVID delta variant continues to spread rapidly through the U.S., there have been breakthrough infections among fully vaccinated individuals. The good news is that the cases among the fully vaccinated are mostly mild. The bad news is that these individuals can easily spread the virus. This finding is concerning and was a pivotal factor leading to CDC's updated mask recommendations.

The CDC recommends that **fully vaccinated persons wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission** and consider wearing a mask regardless if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease, or if someone in their household is unvaccinated (including children aged <12 years who are currently ineligible for vaccination).

The safety and welfare of all visitors and members of Trinity are our highest priority and Clarksville/Montgomery is an area of high transmission. Therefore, we request that you read and follow these safety guidelines.

### OUTSIDE:

- 1) Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks but should observe social distancing when possible.
- 2) Unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks.
  - A) If food/drink is served, individuals may remove masks to eat/drink but continue to observe social distancing except for those in their immediate family.

### INSIDE:

- 1) All individuals regardless of vaccination status are required to wear a well-fitting mask that fully covers nose, mouth, and chin. Face shields alone, bandanas, and masks with exhalation vents are not acceptable.
  - A) If food/drink is served, individuals may remove masks to eat/drink but continue to observe social distancing except for those in their immediate families.
- 2) Visitors and parishioners are asked to practice strict hand hygiene and use provided hand sanitizers on entering the church.
- 3) If an individual must adjust their mask, they should first use provided hand sanitizer and avoid touching their face and eyes as much as possible.

## **Eucharist:**

It might seem incongruent, but we will be returning to serving both wine and bread during Eucharist. The priest (or other server) will intinct (slightly dip) the wafer with a small amount of wine before serving.

For people who may not want wine, we will also have a non-wine option for those that choose to participate in one kind, offering bread only. Receiving communion in one kind conveys the full presence of Christ.

- 1) The ushers will send communicants to the altar by row. Communicants will choose the designated wine+bread or bread only Eucharistic minister area.
- 2) Communicants will remain standing and refrain from kneeling or touching the altar rail.
- 3) The communicants will use provided hand sanitizer, hold out their hand to receive the communion wafer.
- 4) Having sanitized their hands, the priest or Eucharistic minister will drop a consecrated wafer into the hands of each communicant avoiding touching of hands.
- 5) Communicants will keep their masks on, receive the wafer, reach under their mask to consume the wafer, and then return to their seat again utilizing provided hand sanitizer.
- 6) If an individual has mobility issues that precludes walking to or standing at the railing, they should notify the ushers on entering the church and communion will be taken to them in their pew.

## **Readers/soloists/cantors:**

- 1) Upon approaching the lectern or pulpit, and after touching the railing, if necessary, individuals will use provided hand sanitizer prior to touching any part of the pulpit, lectern, microphone, or book.
- 2) Touching or adjusting the mask prior to or during the song or reading is to be avoided.

We are happy to discuss any concerns or questions with you. Please contact Reverend Meghan Ryan, Larry Faust MD, or Quentin Humberd MD through the church office (931) 648-2458