

INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR GATHERING AT TRINITY PARISH – Updated October 28, 2021



Mask requirements for vaccinated individuals have been relaxed and lifted for many activities. However, COVID cases continue to circulate in our community and there are mutations of the **original virus that are more contagious**. The safety and welfare of all visitors and members of Trinity is our highest priority. Therefore, we request that you read and follow these safety guidelines based on the most current information from the CDC, Infectious Diseases Society of America, International Society of Infectious Disease, Tennessee Department of Health, and peer-reviewed professional medical journals.

Outside

- *Fully vaccinated** individuals do not need to wear masks. It is recommended masks be worn for additional protection when congregating with others outside of their household.
- Unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.
 - If food/drink is served, unvaccinated individuals may remove masks to eat/drink but continue to observe social distancing except for those in their household.

Church Sanctuary

- During the worship service, ushers will seat individuals and households according to specific seating guidelines to prioritize the safety of unvaccinated individuals. Please notify an usher if you are not fully vaccinated.
- Visitors and parishioners are asked to practice strict hand hygiene and use provided hand sanitizers on entering the church and refrain from touching their masks and eyes.
- *Fully vaccinated** individuals should wear a mask when entering and exiting the church building, however, they may remove their masks once seated.
- *Unvaccinated children* over the age of 3 and *unvaccinated adults* should continue to wear masks as well as practice social distancing.
- Servers/ushers/greeters will continue to wear masks. Readers/officiants/etc. may remove masks to speak at the pulpit or lectern.
- Choir members may remove their masks to sing.
- We will offer Holy Eucharist with two options: bread only or bread intincted by the priest. Remember, receiving communion in one kind conveys the full presence of Christ.
 - The ushers will send communicants to the altar rails.
 - The communicants will use provided hand sanitizer, stand avoiding touching the railings and hold out their hand to receive the Host.
 - Having sanitized their hands, the priest or Eucharistic minister will drop a consecrated wafer into the hands of each communicant avoiding touching of hands.
 - After receiving the wafer, the communicant will place it in their mouth by reaching under their mask, avoiding lowering, or lifting the mask, and return to their seat again using hand sanitizer.

Parish House (Parish Hall and Parish Meeting Rooms)

- *Fully vaccinated* individuals are encouraged to wear masks.
- *Unvaccinated individuals* should continue to always wear masks except as noted below
- *Coffee Hour* will resume indoors starting **Sunday, November 7** following the food/drink protocols listed below.
- If/when *food or drink is served*, fully vaccinated individuals may remove their masks to eat or drink but are encouraged to continue to practice social distancing. Unvaccinated individuals may remove their masks to eat or drink but must remain socially distant with the exception of those in their immediate household.

***Fully vaccinated individuals are those who have received at least doses of Moderna or Pfizer vaccines or the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and are at least 2 weeks post-vaccination.**