

Important Changes to Our Church's
"Rules for Wearing a Mask and Social Distancing During Coronavirus Pandemic."
Special Session Meeting, June 29, 2021

The session has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation here in our state and during a Special Session meeting held via ZOOM on Tuesday, June 29, and after much discussion concerning the pros and cons of making a change, it was agreed to amend the "Rules for Wearing a Mask and Social Distancing During Coronavirus Pandemic," which had been adopted September 22, 2020. These changes will more closely align our church's policies with the current policies of the State of Michigan.

The most notable change is that wearing a mask will become optional for those of you who are vaccinated. The Session wants to emphasize that being vaccinated for COVID-19 is still the single most important thing you can do to help yourselves, your church, and your loved ones. We understand that in a few rare cases, under doctor's advice, some of you cannot receive vaccinations. But that makes it all the more important for those of us who can to do so. If you haven't already, and if you can, please get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Other requirements regard the wearing of a mask:

- Children under kindergarten age are not required to wear masks.
- Children kindergarten age and older (through high school and young adults) and who have not been vaccinated, are required to wear masks except in cases where they ask to be excused due to health considerations.
- All adults who are not vaccinated are expected to wear a mask except in cases where they ask to be excused due to health considerations.
- In cases where non-vaccinated individuals cannot wear a mask due to health considerations, additional social distancing may be required.
- Individuals that refuse to comply with these requirements will be asked to leave.

For those of you who have not been vaccinated, one-quarter of the sanctuary will be marked-off as an area in which masks are required and physical distancing must be maintained. If you have any questions with regard to the seating, please ask our ushers for assistance.

In addition, the following rules will also apply for all indoor Worship Services:

- Worship Service will be held in the Sanctuary.
- Windows will be open and fans will be placed to blow air out the windows.
- The front entrance doors will be propped open.
- One or more fans will be placed in the Narthex blowing air from the open doors into the Sanctuary.
- Contact tracing will be done as congregants enter the building. (This will be done by an usher, who will note the name of each individual.)

- People will be allowed into the sanctuary no more than 15 minutes early.
- We ask those who are not vaccinated to wear a mask (except for the preacher when speaking), maintain social distancing and to be seated in the designated area.
- The only singing will be a closing hymn at the end of service, with no more than three verses.
- There will be no coffee hour before or after worship service.
- Communion will be celebrated the first Sunday of the month, as usual. Juice will be poured and placed in the pews in advance. Pre-packaged juice would still be available for those who prefer it. Fresh-baked bread will be on a tray for people to take as they enter the Sanctuary.

In addition to these rules changes governing Worship Services, the Office Manager is authorized by Session to ask anyone who has not been vaccinated, and who refuses to comply with these rules, to leave the church building at once, and if necessary, to call law enforcement to remove the individual from the premises.

It will be good to return to an even greater degree of normalcy. Over time, as the pandemic wanes and it becomes safe to do so, the Session will relax more of these precautions. But for now, please help us by celebrating Worship Services safely.