



Gathering for Abundant Life Phase 2.5

As of March 1, 2021 the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona is moving into Phase 2.5 of our Gathering for Abundant Life plan for reopening our congregations for public worship. Phase 2.5 expands slightly upon the ministries that may resume during Phase 2, as outlined below.

Churches may meet for worship INDOORS following the guidelines which now permit:

- 25% occupancy of the worship space (i.e., there is no longer a 50 person maximum if your sanctuary seats more than 200 people)
- All attendees, including worship leaders, must wear masks over their noses and mouths, and not just face shields, at all times.
- Music may be led by up to four cantors, who must remain masked. There is still no congregational singing indoors.
- All other Phase 2 guidelines (communion in one kind only, distancing, etc.) continue.

Churches may meet for worship OUTDOORS following the guidelines that continue to permit:

- Worship for as many people as can gather while maintaining 6 feet distance between family groups
- All attendees, including worship leaders, must wear masks over their noses and mouths, and not just face shields.
- Choir and congregational singing is permitted so long as distance is maintained between singers.
- All other Phase 2 guidelines (communion in one kind only, distancing, etc.) continue.

Children's Ministry:

- Where approved by the Vestry, congregations may now offer in-person Sunday School and children's activities for children in Kindergarten and above.
- All teachers and students must wear masks over their noses and mouths at all times
- Students and teachers should meet in rooms that permit distancing between individuals.
- There is to be no food or snacks during Sunday School or youth events
- Outdoor children's and youth events continue to be preferred

Pastoral, Formation, and Outreach Ministry:

- Small, masked, and distanced groups for Adult Christian formation may continue indoors
- Clergy may make pastoral visits while masked and distanced
- Critical Outreach ministries may continue, while masked and distanced.

The Task Force recommends that ministry, worship, and formation be moved outdoors whenever possible. We also wish to specify that at this time, even those who are fully vaccinated must wear masks.

Congregations with an approved Phase 2 plan do not need any further approvals from the Diocese to enter Phase 2.5. **Congregations which do not currently have an approved Phase 2 plan must submit a plan to reopen for public worship.**