

## COVID Prevention at RPC

We know how serious our local COVID situation is and so, until our conditions in Duval County improve significantly, we ask that anytime you're on the RPC campus that you wear a face mask and maintain social distancing. We will have masks available at the doors to the sanctuary and to the Education Building if you forget yours. We will also continue to have hand sanitizer available at the entrances.

**All are welcome at RPC and all are asked to take these steps to protect each other including some of those most vulnerable - our kids.**

**In addition to asking everyone to wear a mask when on campus and to maintain social distancing, here are the other safety measures that are in place at RPC:**

**For small groups such as committee meetings, small groups, and Sunday school classes gathering in-person:**

- Everyone must wear a mask over nose and mouth.
- Chairs must be positioned to be socially distanced.
- Whenever possible, a virtual option should be available for those who need to participate remotely (for example, via Zoom, Google Meets, or speaker phone).
- Having food available in the meeting is strongly discouraged. For children and youth programs and for the men's breakfast groups, food should be limited to items that can be quickly eaten with masks put back on as quickly as possible. Food items should be individually wrapped whenever possible.
- If there is an appropriate outdoor space available for the group, we encourage meeting outdoors.
- All volunteers working with children and youth must be vaccinated.
- If you are a small group leader and need help with safe practices for your committee, please tell Jan Carr when you make your room reservation ([jan.carr@rpcjax.org](mailto:jan.carr@rpcjax.org)).

**For worship in the sanctuary:**

- Everyone must wear a mask over nose and mouth.
- The ropes will remain in place, for now, to help ensure social distancing. The ushers will take down ropes and seat worshippers on the adjacent pews, if needed. If you require socially distanced seating, please send an email to Kathy Para, [parakathy@gmail.com](mailto:parakathy@gmail.com) (or call 904-651-1081), indicating the worship service you plan to attend, so the ushers can ensure that we have your socially distanced space available.
- Some members may decide that their best choice is to worship online and participate in small groups via Zoom. Thankfully, we have very effective and meaningful electronic resources which allow us to stay connected to our church family.

**Fellowship activities** will be limited and will be planned for outdoor venues whenever possible.

Here is the updated CDC guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second shot.

**We strongly encourage all who are eligible to be vaccinated.** The efficacy of the approved vaccines continues to be confirmed. To find a vaccine location: go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to search by which vaccine you'd like to receive, where you may go to get that vaccine, and whether appointments are required. If you have ongoing health conditions or have had reactions to other vaccinations, check with your doctor before getting the vaccine. **We also encourage all who are able to get the booster vaccine when it is available.**

If you need help scheduling a vaccine or if you need transportation to your vaccine site, please contact Kathy Para, Chair of Safe Gatherings, [parakathy@gmail.com](mailto:parakathy@gmail.com), 904-651-1081.

We know that wearing masks, social distancing, and hand washing, along with vaccinations are the keys to stopping this deadly virus. It's definitely discouraging to be facing this latest challenge in the pandemic but we continue to stand together and to do what's needed to protect each other

The Safe Gatherings Committee appreciates your feedback and questions. If you would like to join this committee, please contact Kathy Para.

The Safe Gatherings Committee

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