

Dear Genesis church and friends,

As you probably know, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended that those people who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear masks or social distance either indoors or outdoors. A vaccine for COVID-19 is now widely available for all those over the age of 12. Plus, Gov. Abbot of Texas has signed an order that no local government entities can require mask-wearing although private businesses and organizations can still establish this requirement for customers and visitors.

In light of these recent decisions and recommendations, the Church Council of Genesis UMC approved on May 23, 2021, the following new health and safety protocols:

Wearing a mask and getting vaccinated are choices that should be led by love and care for your neighbor. We continue to support and encourage both mask-wearing and vaccinations. However, we will no longer require masks to be worn. We will not require proof of vaccination to participate in church activities.*

If you are not yet fully vaccinated, for whatever reason, we encourage you to wear a mask for your protection and for the protection of others while in worship and the church building. Wellness stations will continue to provide access to masks and hand sanitizer.

For those who want to continue to maintain social distancing, the two furthest side sections in the Sanctuary will be reserved for social distancing. All other pews will be available for open seating. Worship livestreaming will continue on Facebook and recordings of worship posted to YouTube.

***At this time, all those who work directly with children and youth will be required to either wear a mask while in personal contact with children under age 12 or provide proof of vaccination record.**

We hope all those connected to Genesis UMC will continue to consider and act in the best interest of their neighbor, especially those most vulnerable among us. Some of our church groups, such as the Choir or youth group, may continue to wear face coverings for this reason. If you have symptoms of any illness (not just coronavirus), you may want to consider worshipping online until recovered.

All that being said, we look forward to a new day where we can fellowship face-to-face as the family of God, resume familiar activities in person, and explore new opportunities that we have delayed. Thank you for your compliance, compassion, and patience through this difficult year. Please say a prayer for all those who mourn and for those who need their strength renewed after fighting this terrible virus. In Jesus name, Amen.

Peace,

Pastors Amber & Paul Massingill