



# The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

The Central Third of California

## REOPENING PROTOCOLS

EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2021

**\*\*SUBJECT TO REVISION PER STATE/COUNTY/CDC GUIDELINES\*\***

### In-person, indoor worship:

- continue with distribution of Eucharist in one kind (bread)
- continue observing social distancing guidelines (no touching/hugging/handshakes at the Peace, before/after worship)
- maintain 6 feet of social distancing for seating
- no occupancy restrictions
- no congregational or choir singing, but a cantor/soloist (distanced from altar party and congregation) is permitted
- mid-week Eucharist/prayer gatherings are permitted in person
- BCP's return to pews

### Baptisms, Receptions, Confirmations:

- the presider and person receiving the sacrament, with immediate and limited family (parents and/or sponsor/godparents) at the font/standing in front of the bishop

### Coffee hour & bathroom usage:

- continue to restrict coffee hour through the summer and fall/winter
- bathrooms are open for use, but need to be cleaned more frequently



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## Small groups, bible study, Sunday School & child care:

--strongly recommend continuing small groups, bible study and Sunday School on ZOOM, however, if a congregation can safely distance, in person gathering is allowable

--child care is permitted as long as the supervising adults wear masks (regardless of vaccination status)

## Masks in worship

\*\*knowing that the state is at a 50% vaccination rate as of May 26th

\*\*knowing that herd immunity is 75% vaccination rate

\*\*knowing that some are not able to be vaccinated due to health issues

\*\*knowing that some who are vaccinated may still want to wear masks

\*\*knowing that wearing masks and being vaccinated can create a caste system (vaccinated vs. unvaccinated)

--mask wearing inside the church (or other buildings on church campuses) is optional, regardless of vaccination status, but masks are strongly encouraged

--social distancing of vaccinated clergy can be reduced to 3 feet and no masks at the altar

--vaccinated clergy can celebrate & preach without wearing masks (we strongly encourage unvaccinated clergy to continue wearing masks and social distancing at 6ft)

**Bullying and harassment of people wearing or not wearing will NOT be tolerated. Wearing a mask is the choice of the individual, and we are striving to respect the dignity of every human being.**



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## ECCO:

- public area bathrooms are reopened and should be cleaned after meals and meetings
- dining with no more than 6 people (or one household) to a table (up to 8 if all individuals have been vaccinated)
- room assignments are based on household groups, singles should be paired with others according to their vaccination status (this put the responsibility on the group leader to inquire and make these assignments)
- masks are not required for outdoor recreation and gathering
- meeting rooms should be set up in a way to allow for 6 feet of social distancing
- masks are not required for indoor meeting rooms, but strongly encouraged
- no restrictions on occupancy