

Updated COVID-19 Guidelines

May 5, 2021

**EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF
CHICAGO**



Framework

- **Promote Safety**
- **Promote Calm**
- **Promote Self and Collective Efficacy**
- **Promote Connectedness**
- **Promote Hope**



Physical Distancing: 6 feet between all persons not living in same household.



Masks: All wear masks regardless of vaccination status, except for limited exceptions.



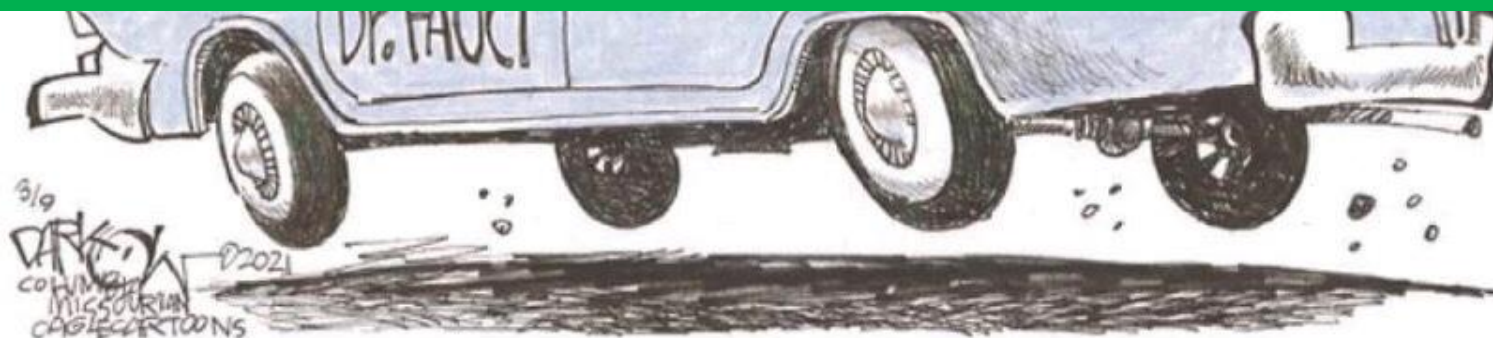
Good Hygiene: Frequent hand-washing, sanitizing, and not touching face.

Cleanliness: Spaces are cleaned and sanitized after each use and cleaned regularly.



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We're getting closer



What we considered

- Advice and perspective of our response team.
- Current State of Illinois and City of Chicago guidelines.
- Recent data on infection rates, vaccinations, and hospitalizations.
- Practices of other Episcopal dioceses around the country.
- Grounded in an ethic of care and compassion

Worship Services

Indoor services: (based on Illinois and City of Chicago guidelines as of 4/29/21)

- Churches with capacity of less than 200: 50% of capacity with a cap of 50 people
- Churches with capacity of more than 200: 25% of capacity
- Can have groups in more than one room as long as there is a safe way for each group to enter and exit separately. Groups should not mingle.

As you determine the number of people your church can accommodate, please keep in mind how 6 feet distance between individuals and family groups is maintained.

Worship Services

Outdoor services

No limit as long as physical distancing of 6 feet between individuals and family groups can be maintained.

Drive-in Services:

Members remain in their vehicles, maintain distance between cars of at least 6 feet apart.

Worship guidelines updates

- For indoor and outdoor services, face masks must be worn for by all regardless of vaccination status, except that a fully vaccinated person may remove their mask to preach or read as long as they are at least 6 feet away from any other person.
- Prayer books and hymnals may remain in the pews, and re-usable paper bulletins may be used from week to week. If using re-usable paper bulletins for worship on the same day, use a different set for each service.
- Guidelines for celebrating the Eucharist remain the same and are included in update.

Music Guidelines

- A choir of no more than four fully vaccinated people may sing together at an **indoor worship service**, with all singers wearing a well-fitting mask, and distanced at least 6 feet from any other person. It is encouraged that the choir also be at least 15 feet away from other members of congregation.
- More people, but no more than 15, regardless of vaccine status, may rehearse and sing together as a choir **outdoors** so long as all are masked and distanced at least 6 feet away from any person.
- A choir of fully vaccinated singers may rehearse and record in an empty, well-ventilated church as long as all singers wear a well-fitted mask and maintain 6 feet distance from one another.

Music Guidelines

- Vaccinated brass and woodwind instrumentalists with appropriate coverings for the bell of the instrument and appropriate face masks may play indoors or outdoors as long as 6 feet distance is maintained.
- Other instrumentalists, for example, string and percussion, must be masked and remain 6 feet apart. It is strongly recommended that these instrumentalists also be fully vaccinated.
- Congregants are welcome to hum along as music is sung or played.

Celebration of Baptism

- The service of Baptism should proceed as normal, following the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer.
- While administering the rite, masking protocols should be followed and distancing maintained when possible.

Celebration of Weddings & Funerals

- Weddings and funerals may be held in the church following the capacity guidelines as described earlier.
- Any other gathering related to a wedding or funeral (e.g. reception) may take place as long as the guidelines appropriate to current state and local guidelines are followed.
- All worship guidelines pertaining to music, worship bulletins, celebration of the Eucharist, etc. are to be maintained.

Coffee Hour and Other Meals

- The preferred and safest option for fellowship and sharing of food is outdoors.
- Any food available should be individually wrapped.
- If beverages are available, they should be pre-poured into individual cups with individually-packaged creamers/sweeteners for coffee or tea available at a separate table.
- Masks, when not eating or drinking, are required as is physical distancing

Other Meals

- Meals ministries or community meals can take place at tables with no more than 6 people and tables at least 6 feet apart in all directions.
- Outdoors is the safer choice.
- If indoors, the space must be large enough with adequate ventilation.
- No self-serve or buffet style meals are allowed.
- Masks are required except when eating.
- Consult state and local guidelines for safe dining.

Community Groups

- Community groups that meet on your church campus may return as long as they agree to follow these guidelines and any additional guidelines set by the State of Illinois Department of Public Health for groups such as daycare and schools.
- Make sure that all community groups are aware of the guidelines for their group's return.

Returning to the Office

- If staff has not returned to work in the office, now is the time to begin planning for that return.
- The CDC has useful tools and information for returning to work.
- It is important to be attentive to the range of feelings and concerns that returning to the workplace might bring.
- Mask wearing and physical distancing guidelines are important especially when meeting with visitors and while working together in public spaces.
- Associate for Human Resources, Anna Stefaniak, is available for consultation on returning to offices.

Office Hours with Courtney

Wednesdays from 12:30-1

Via zoom

Meeting ID 816 6808 2004

Passcode 747223

(published each week in e-news)

Thank you to our team

- Beth Lucas, St Paul McHenry
- Jo Ann Lagman, St Mark, Glen Ellyn
- Jacqueline Cameron, Church of Atonement
- Fulton Porter, St Thomas, Chicago
- Anthony Vaccaro, Church of our Savior, Chicago
- Courtney Reid
- Andrea Mysen
- Crystal Plummer
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