

*Portion of April 21, 2022, Session Meeting relating to
COVID-related practices on the Immanuel campus*

TEACH IN AND DISCUSSION ON- MASKING AND OTHER COVID MATTERS – Katie Strednak Singer

The Session discussed options presented by the staff with the COVID-19 Team's advice as background. The staff presentation recognizes that we are still in the pandemic stage (with new variants emerging, or the possibility of new variants emerging in the near future). On the other hand, some in the congregation have an understandable desire to move toward optional masking and other relaxing of precautions, especially in smaller group settings. The presentation recognizes that most choices in our lives right now involve risk analysis and risk assessment, and that many of us have different comfort levels. After extended deliberation, the Session adopted the following, all of which are subject to re-evaluation as the changing level of risk from COVID warrants.

1. Choir, bells and band rehearsals

It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the following policies for music rehearsals:

Vocal Choirs: Based on the significantly increased transmission risk that comes with singing, the choir will continue to practice in the Meeting House where the ventilation system is upgraded and the spacing and masking have thus far been effective in preventing any known spread. Singing in the congregation at large would require masks for all, including the choir. After more time goes by, if there seems to be further reason to move back into the choir room, all windows should stay open. This shift would first involve more conversation between the music director, the Head of Staff (Aaron), with C-19 team guidance, but right now the hope is simply to stay the course.

Bell choirs: The bell choirs will continue to ring in the music room, and masking could become a community conversation. Windows could be opened if the bells decide to go mask optional.

Evening service band: The band will be treated like a small group, the policy for which is set forth in a separate resolution.

2. Events with food indoors and fellowship hours

It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the following policies for (1) events where food is served and eaten indoors and (2) for fellowship hour after worship:

(1) Food and beverage consumption permitted on-campus indoors only for small groups or special events or receptions where "mask optional" has been advertised well in advance.

(2) Fellowship hour will be permitted after worship but will be outside only for the time being.

3. Small groups meeting on campus

It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the following policies for committee and other small group meetings:

Small groups are welcome to gather back in person on-campus, with masks recommended if the meeting takes place indoors.

Each group will then determine together whether to continue with mask required or to make masks optional.

Each group meeting will be listed as "mask optional" or "mask required" in the E-Presence, to help people opt in or out of events.

Groups may still meet digitally or in-person and digitally (*ie*, a hybrid meeting).

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4. Reopening the nursery

It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the following policies regarding the nursery during morning worship:

As soon as two nursery workers are hired (or as soon as one nursery worker is hired if volunteers can be found to provide the second adult present as required by Immanuel's Child Protection Policy, the nursery will be reopened.

The nursery workers and any volunteers must provide proof of having received all available COVID vaccinations and boosters and must wear an N95 or KN95 mask at all times while in the nursery.

Vance Gore and Lee Rainie volunteered to assist the Personnel Committee in the hiring of the nursery worker or workers.

5. Masks in worship services

It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the following policy regarding masks in worship:

Masks will continue to be required for morning worship; at evening worship, masks will be optional, except when singing, when masks must be worn.