



Diocese of the Rio Grande COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Why have DRG re-opening guidelines moved so slowly?

Loving God and loving our neighbors has meant that we need to do everything we can to keep our communities safe- and corporate worship the way we used to do it was one of the least safe things we could do during the early stages of the pandemic. Going slowly and learning best practices has kept the most vulnerable among us safe. We have not had a single outbreak of COVID-19 in any of our congregations! And that is because of our good work together.

Where are we now?

Vaccinations are here, they are safe, they are effective, and they are available to any adult who wishes to be vaccinated. Covid cases are decreasing across the country and many parts of our Diocese are leading the way nationally in Vaccination rates.

Where are we going?

Soon all who want vaccination will be fully vaccinated, and we will approach “herd immunity” in the USA. As more and more are vaccinated, risk for everyone goes down we will be able to gather safely in larger groups- even singing in Church! (While still wearing masks.)

When will we get there?

Assuming the current trends hold by Mid-July all who want to be will be fully vaccinated, and we can expect to re-open to our pre-Covid numbers. Increases in viral transmission rates and viral variants could delay this even further. We’re not out of the woods yet.

I’m vaccinated! Can’t we drop restrictions for vaccinated folks?

Our churches don’t exist for our members, they exist to be a sign of God’s love to anyone who encounters us. Making decisions about worship and programming based on who is vaccinated and who is not creates in groups and out groups and that prevents us from fully loving our neighbors, and that Gospel call is worth waiting a bit longer for.

Questions? Comments? Let us know at <https://dioceserg.org/contact>