



April 25, 2021

We thank our congregation for continuing to pray for our committee and for all the efforts we are all making as a church body to show love, grace, and patience with each other as we navigate a complicated situation for our church and community. Having prayerfully reviewed the current data on Covid, including the now widespread availability of vaccines, and balancing that with our call to pursue God's worship and work as a church body faithfully, we want to share these four points:

1. **MASKS** - Beginning May 2 we will still expect all attending our worship service to wear masks while moving around inside, before and after the service, and while singing during the service, but they will be optional while in the worship service, listening. This has been the policy of many churches for some months now and we feel it is reasonable step to take at this point.
2. **YOUTH** - Starting the week of April 26, given the relatively low threat to youth from Covid, and the reality that most are interacting outside of church and school without masks, our youth gatherings will become mask optional. With warm weather our youth leaders will aim to conduct as many group activities outside as possible.
3. **DISTANCING** - Our Sunday morning setup teams will continue to arrange our seating rows with at least 6 feet of separation, and provide several tables in the back of our worship space for households who may want to attend, but not yet ready to send children to children's church. We are thankful to have a worship space that permits enough room for this safety measure.
4. **TRANSITION** - As we look ahead, this will provide us 4 weeks in May as a mask transition phase. Assuming the Covid data continues to look encouraging, we will plan to make masks optional in all settings beginning May 30.

It will remain at the discretion of small group and life group leaders to determine how best for their groups to meet. And we continue our expectation that any who have a fever, and/or other potential symptoms of Covid, refrain from attending church events.

We welcome any feedback that the congregation would like to share about these matters. We also will continue the live stream and uploading of our worship services to YouTube and Facebook, and encourage our congregation to continue sharing these with others for outreach. At the same time, we hope all who do not have remaining Covid concerns will resume onsite weekly Lord's Day worship. We cannot discern all God is wanting to do in us through the reality of Covid, but certainly one reminder is the incredible value of in-person worship – something we all easily took for granted before Covid.