



September 29, 2021

Share with others



Dear Christ Church,

I want to update you this week on some changes in our church's COVID-19 mitigation protocols. As you know, we reinstated mandatory masking during August in an effort to forestall the spread of the Delta variant through our church. Since that difficult decision, COVID-19 cases have decreased significantly in our area. Test positivity rates have dropped to just 3%. Hospitalizations in DuPage County have reduced significantly. The vaccination rate is now 71% for persons 12 and older and 85% for those 65-plus.

In light of this progress and in consultation with medical professionals on our boards, we feel it is time to loosen our protocols a bit. Hopefully, we can go even further in weeks ahead. Effective immediately...

- We welcome those who have been fully vaccinated to take off their masks when seated at any indoor gathering of our church, assuming appropriate social distance. We simply ask that masks be put back on when singing and when moving around our buildings.
- We are restoring refreshment service as soon as possible and ask attendees to observe "Airline Rules" when in church buildings (i.e., feel free to pull masks down when consuming food or beverages).
- We request all unvaccinated adults and unvaccinated children under 12 (optional for ages 2 and under) to wear masks at public gatherings inside our buildings.
- Our medical advisers urge persons at high-risk for morbidity due to COVID-19 to wear masks regardless of vaccination status. (e.g. those over 65 or with underlying illnesses)

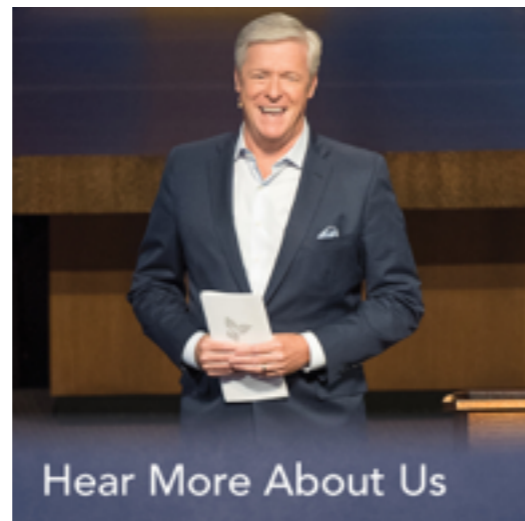
At various times during the pandemic, I've been asked why Christ Church has hosted vaccine clinics or enacted social distancing or masking precautions. "*Why not just put our faith in God?*" My answer has been: *We've taken these measures because of our faith.* Jesus worked to heal disease and commissioned His disciples to do likewise (Matthew 10:1). The Scriptures make clear that the Christian way is to think less about self and more about how we protect and care for others (Philippians 2:3; Galatians 6:22-23). Even the names of the hospitals in our area remind us how closely the Christian faith has been allied up with overcoming illness.

Sadly, the evangelical church is being branded today as cavalier about this pandemic or not doing its part to help our country recover. That's not the church I know. I admire the heart of our congregation. I believe each of us -- in accordance with the wisdom God gives us (James 1:5) -- will continue to do all we know how to help bring an end to this scourge and to speed our return to the rhythms of church and public life we all cherish. Thank YOU for the consideration and sacrifice you are demonstrating toward the health of others.

Please join me this weekend as we celebrate Holy Communion and continue our series, **Remarkable Relationships**. I will be exploring how to avoid the patterns that can sink our relationships. Be praying about who you can invite this Sunday. I promise that we are working to create a warm and welcoming space for you and them.

With love for you and our life together,

Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer, Lead Pastor



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