

Concerning the health and safety of all those who come to Christ Church

May 17, 2021

At Christ Church, we will continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. On May 14, 2021, the CDC relaxed their guidance on mask wearing and indoor gatherings. The following day, Gov. Roy Cooper lifted all mask mandates and capacity limitations. Bishop Skirving has followed the directives and executive orders of Gov. Cooper with respect to masks and indoor capacity limitations.

It is our intention for Christ Church, both our space and our community, to be as safe as possible for as many people as possible. We will continue to do everything in our power to make that happen.

Going forward, Christ Church will not require people vaccinated against COVID-19 to wear a mask indoors in most circumstances. We strongly urge anyone of any age who has not received a COVID-19 vaccine to continue wearing a mask when they are inside our buildings, including worship.

Because children under the age of 11¹ are not yet eligible for a vaccine and because teachers and other school personnel are still required to wear a mask no matter their vaccination status, anyone working with children at Christ Church will be required to wear a mask when they are engaged in that ministry indoors. This includes Growing in Grace and Vacation Bible School.² Clergy will continue to wear a mask during the children's homily because of the close proximity of the unvaccinated participants.

We also recognize that not everyone will be comfortable being indoors without a mask. We honor that and encourage anyone who feels they need to wear a mask to do so.

We will also maintain an area in the Nave where seating is more spaced out, respecting those who may not yet feel comfortable with another person or household sitting directly in front or behind them.

Clergy will wear a mask during the distribution of Communion.

As we proceed into these unclear waters, it is important to remember that there are still immuno-compromised people who will wear a mask in public for their own health. There

¹ While children tend to be less likely to get COVID, they are still susceptible and can pass it to others. Additionally, we are still learning of the long-term effects of having this disease, and those who are younger are tending to show more severe long-term illnesses.

² This reminder and advice comes from two pediatricians in our parish.

are some who cannot yet get the vaccine for health reasons. There are those who have yet to get a vaccine because their work schedule does not allow them the time off to get it or any flexibility should they have any side effects. Much of the science available to us says that vaccinated adults help keep children safe, too. If you or someone you know needs to get the vaccine, be sure to visit <https://myspot.nc.gov/> or call the local health department or your doctor.

Bishop Skirving has pledged to have in place by June 1 further advice regarding use of the chalice and congregational singing. We await his directions on that.

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