



Updated COVID-19 Guidelines Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana May 18, 2021

Dear friends,

With the recent news from the CDC regarding masking of vaccinated individuals, the following changes will be implemented in our diocese.

- Masks will no longer be required for fully vaccinated individuals. We will also not require social distancing. However, those who have not been vaccinated, because of health reasons, personal decision or vaccine eligibility, will be required to wear masks and maintain their own social distance. We will not check vaccine cards nor will we designate special areas for non-vaccinated persons. But please be aware of children under 12 years of age who cannot be vaccinated. Your honor is their safety.
- Congregational singing will be allowed. Choirs who are fully vaccinated will not be required to wear a mask. If a choir member or congregant is not vaccinated, they must remain masked.
- Please maintain hand hygiene protocols.
- Communion will be given by hand by the priest and can be consumed at the time of reception. We still strongly suggest that the altar rail is not used at this time and that hand hygiene is practiced by all who receive. The common cup will not be shared. (no intinction).
- Indoor receptions/coffee hours may resume. However, attention must be given to hand hygiene as well as other food-distribution protocols that protect the safety of all involved. Remember, outdoors is always the best option.
- The offering plate may be passed.

- Youth/Children's formation will follow the state K-12th school and daycare guidelines regarding masks and distancing.
- Please maintain online worship and formation opportunities for those who feel safer gathering virtually.

In this transitional time, we asked that congregations are sensitive to the needs and continued pastoral concerns of those who worship with us. Some individuals may wish to remain masked for any number of reasons. Although we strongly suggest vaccination, we must remain aware of the issues that are a part of this transitional period, especially with older children who are just now eligible to receive.