

May 20, 2021 update on Covid mitigations for the Valley Community.

I promised you this past Sunday that our Virus Task Force would be considering the CDC updated mask protocols after they had filtered through the policy process in the state. In addition, today, May 21st, the governor is expected to move our county into the “Lower Risk” category of mitigation protocols. *Please note the CDC and state guidance reminding us that if you are considered “high risk,” you are compelled to continue to wear a mask and to follow social distancing, regardless of whether you are fully vaccinated or not.*

That being said, the task force feels comfortable offering the following message regarding wearing masks that is in accordance with state guidelines. These recommendations will go into effect on Sunday, May 23rd:

- **Individuals will be required to wear masks unless one chooses to show proof of being fully vaccinated with the vaccine card.**
 - In order to enter the church unmasked you will need to have your vaccine card and it must indicate you have received the full regimen of vaccine (1 shot of Johnson and Johnson, or 2 shots of Pfizer or Moderna) plus 14 days.
 - We will keep an ongoing record of fully vaccinated individuals in order to avoid the need for a weekly presentation of that card.
 - You are welcome to email a picture of that vaccine card to Angie Graham in the office (angie@valleycommunity.org), or you can simply bring it with you on Sunday when you arrive. Our intention is to avoid your need to present the card every week. If you email us the picture of your card we will not keep either a digital or printed copy of that information in our files. Our only data will be that we have provided proof of your vaccination.
- Unmasking is completely voluntary. Please feel free to unmask only when you have met the measure of full vaccination and full comfort with the practice. Remember, children are not yet approved for the vaccines and will still need to be masked.
- Worship leaders who are fully vaccinated will conduct worship without a mask.
- We continue to require that the congregation refrain from singing until we receive appropriate recommendations from the state to do so. Our song leaders are a joy to listen to!
- Beginning June 6th, we will once again celebrate Communion with bread and cup. Distribution of the bread and cup will be in accordance with state recommendations.

- Seating for Sunday worship will slightly change. For those fully vaccinated, you are welcome to sit as you are comfortable in the front half of the sanctuary; every other pew row being available. For those masked and still observing distancing measures, the back half of the sanctuary will allow for appropriate spacing.
- We will no longer check temperatures at the door. Body temperature is not an adequate indication for the presence of virus.
- Fellowship hour will once again resume in Davis Hall following worship. Please allow the appropriate groups time in coordinating safe food and beverage procedures. Please also remember that masking and social distance still pertains for those not fully vaccinated, and may be the preference of others.
- Ministries previously happening on our campus throughout the week will undergo similar revisions in rules and protocols in the future—please stay tuned.

Thank you for your faithfulness and patience with us.

Pastor Jeff