

GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUMMARY CURRENT COVID-19 GUIDELINES
12/6/21

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We continue to be mindful that there is still a pandemic in our community. Because we verify neither vaccinations nor a negative COVID-19 test as you walk through the narthex doors, we urge you to continue to observe all infection control measures including universal masking, physical distancing, and hand washing.

- We are returning to familiar practices such as passing the friendship pads and offering collection.
- Our pastors have modified Holy Communion practices for maximum safety.
- Indoor worship capacity is recommended to be at 50% of maximum capacity.
- Continue infection control practices, wearing masks, and maintaining a 6 ft physical distance, especially when in contact with people who have underlying health conditions or unvaccinated children.
- In the pews, parishioners may sit with others who share the same household.
- Worship leaders who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask at all times, even when singing or speaking during a worship service. Worship leaders who are fully vaccinated may remove their masks when singing or speaking.
- Choir members should maintain a distance of 12 feet from the nearest parishioner. Vaccinated singers may remove masks when performing. Unvaccinated singers must remain masked.

MASKS

Masking requirements are part of the Long Beach Health Orders and continue to be part of the GFPC guidelines for the control of COVID-19. At GFPC, we do not ask if you are vaccinated or unvaccinated, nor do we ask for a negative COVID-19 test. Therefore, we assume that there will always be unvaccinated, and even fully vaccinated, persons among us who can carry and transmit the virus. Therefore we must all love and respect each other and act accordingly to help keep everyone safe.

While on the GFPC campus, please comply with the following general guidelines:

- Universal indoor masking while in shared common areas (e.g. narthex, sanctuary, ministry center etc.), even if you are fully vaccinated. Exemptions apply to those children less than 2 years of age.
- During Fellowship Time, please wear a mask except when you are actively eating or drinking.
- Fellowship Time servers must wear masks and gloves.
- Worship leaders who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask at all times even when singing or speaking during a worship service. This includes choir members.
- If you are on campus during the week, when Preschool is in session, please always wear your mask, covering both mouth and nose, and stay away from the courtyard where children and staff may be.

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

- You may have small group meetings indoors with a reservation. Contact Chris in the church office (562-420-3393)
- Do not go into the courtyard where preschool children play. You may use the narthex, sanctuary, ministry center, fireside room, or Japanese garden. Do not enter through the metal gates. Enter through the Japanese garden gates. If you are meeting after 6 pm or on week-ends, the children will not be present and you may access the church through the metal gates as usual.
- Outdoor meetings are permitted and everyone remains fully masked.
- Indoor meetings are also permitted as group members feel comfortable. Universal masking rules apply.

FOOD SERVICE

- At this time, plated food is permitted for fellowship, meetings, memorials, and other important events.
- Our kitchen is open only to church ministries.
- There is no self-service (e.g. salad bar, serve yourself pot luck etc). You will be served by the masked and gloved server.
- Please wear your mask when not actively eating or drinking.

OUTSIDE GROUPS

The Session has approved permitting outside groups to be on campus provided they stay away from the preschool children and staff.

- During preschool hours, they may not access the courtyard. They may meet in the narthex, sanctuary and areas of the church accessible via the Japanese garden gate. (Fireside Room, Ministry Center, Garden).
- They may not use the kitchen but they may bring in prepared, boxed, packaged foods, utensils and bottled beverages.
- Universal indoor masking is required, as well as infection control procedures and physical distancing. Masks may be removed when actively eating or drinking.
- Outside of preschool hours, the campus is open to any group. The kitchen is open only for church ministries.

The Reopening Team will continue to re-evaluate appropriate activities and guidelines as directives and information become available from state and local government and health officials.

This summary is not complete. If you have questions, please contact any member of the Reopening Team:

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