

## COVID-19 Policies

This is a living document that provides a framework for our life together as a congregation during the pandemic. The love of our neighbor has always been our guide, and our congregation has struggled to live and to make decisions and to unfold the love of our neighbor while considering the most vulnerable among us. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact the church office by phone or email. Thank you for being an important part of this community.

The policies within this document are effective June 12, 2021.

### **As we gather for worship,**

- For Sunday morning indoor worship face coverings are optional for people who are fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated children and adults should still have a face covering on when indoors. This follows CDC Guidelines.
- For Saturday evening indoor worship face coverings are required over the nose and mouth. Children under 2 are exempt. Please use face coverings recommended by the CDC, i.e. not goggles or shields. Face coverings may be removed just before taking communion and must be replaced immediately afterwards.
- For outdoor worship face coverings are recommended over nose and mouth while moving about, but are optional when physically distanced and stationary.
- We recommend that people from different households remain physically distanced.
- Our indoor capacity will be limited to 50% by closing off every other pew.
- There is limited singing and group speaking and no-touch passing of the peace.
- Pastors may remove their masks indoors when preaching and presiding over communion.
- Signs are posted with current precautions
- Access is limited inside the building.
- At check in, there are supplies available such as hand sanitizer, face coverings, disposable gloves, offering collection, bulletins, individual communion, etc.
- Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing takes place between services.
- We are not sharing food indoors and water fountains are not available.
- We will improve indoor ventilation by opening windows or doors and using air purifiers.
- We ask that you please
  - keep your hands clean and follow good hygiene,
  - stay home if you or anyone in your household is ill,
  - stay home if you are in the vulnerable population (as defined by the CDC), and
  - stay home if you are quarantined or test positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

### **As we gather for church business or other activities,**

- While indoors, face coverings are optional for people who are fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated children and adults should still have a face covering on when indoors. Children under 2 are exempt. Please use face coverings recommended by the CDC, i.e. not goggles or shields. This follows CDC Guidelines.
- Employees may remove face coverings temporarily for essential activities, e.g. eating.
- While outdoors with 10 or more people, face coverings (over nose and mouth) are recommended while moving about but are optional when physically distanced and stationary.
- We recommend that people from different households remain physically distanced.

- Seating areas are marked for physical distancing.
- Hand sanitizer is available at all times.
- We are not sharing food indoors and water fountains are not available.
- Gatherings must be scheduled with church office, so we can clean and sanitize.
- Sign-in sheets are required for those who are not staff in case of the need for contact tracing.
- Group leaders may sign in on behalf of the group (without listing all names).
- Leaders of any in-person gatherings are responsible to communicate our policies at the start of each gathering.
- If participants of in-person gatherings are not willing to follow our policies, the leader may stop the gathering and excuse all participants.
- We will improve indoor ventilation by opening windows or doors and using air purifiers.
- We may use a larger room or reduce the number of people, the amount of time, and/or the amount of group speaking at in-person gatherings, as needed, to reduce risk.
- We ask that you please
  - keep your hands clean and follow good hygiene,
  - stay home if you or anyone in your household is ill,
  - Stay home if you are in the vulnerable population (as defined by the CDC), and
  - Stay home if you are quarantined or test positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

#### **In case of an exposure to COVID-19,**

- If a person who was in our building tests positive, we will immediately shut down the building and contact the health department for guidance on cleaning and reopening.
- If an employee or volunteer is exposed, they must quarantine following health department guidelines.

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## References and Resources

Southeast Iowa Synod Covid-19 Resources (Includes Iowa and CDC resource links)

<https://seiasynod.org/covid-19/>

ELCA Covid-19 Resources

<https://www.elca.org/publichealth>

Covid-19 in Iowa (Statistics)

<https://coronavirus.iowa.gov>

Scott County Covid-19 Information

<https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health/covid19>

CDC Guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

CDC information for schools and childcare

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html#thresholds>

Singing during the pandemic - American Choral Directors Association:

<https://acda.org/resources-for-choral-professionals-during-a-pandemic/>