



May 26, 2021

From: ASNS Safety Team – Gail Arnold, Sue Spencer, Diane Manning, Phyllis Harris,
Michele Winkler-Gettings

Re: Recommendations regarding worship based upon May 20 Pastoral Letter from Bishop
Gates and Bishop Harris

The Safety Team reconvened on May 26, 2021 to offer recommendations to the vestry on how best to proceed forward considering the governor's new guidelines and the renewed guidelines from Bishop Gates and Bishop Harris as provided in a pastoral letter, dated May 20, 2021.

Link is provided here.

<https://www.diomass.org/news/diocesan-news/may-20-pastoral-letter-covid-19-guidelines>

We are making the following recommendations with the understanding that renewed guidelines from the diocese may occur after July 1st.

The following guidelines will take effect June 27th when we begin hybrid worship.

- **Capacity limits** in the sanctuary: we suggest increasing the maximum to 60 households with 3-foot distancing between households. Parishioners would sit in every other pew with up to 3 households in a pew. The diocese is still recommending physical distancing between households, however, we reduced that to 3 feet.

Note: The diocese recommends until June 30th, indoor in-person worship should be limited to 60% of building capacity. For All Saints 60% for the sanctuary would be 225!

- **Masks:** Those who are not yet vaccinated, masks are required.
Those who are not fully vaccinated, masks are required.
Those who are fully vaccinated, you may wish to wear a mask or not.
- **Indoor singing:** Fully vaccinated people should wear masks and continued physical distancing is important for anyone singing.
- A slight bow or a hand to the heart remains the safer option at the passing of the peace.
- We will continue to have masks available, hand sanitizers, and the offertory plate in the back of the sanctuary.
- The diocese has stated that coffee hour and other events with food and drinks may resume, however, we are recommending that we not serve food until September 12th when we resume the 10 am service.

- Registration for in-person service is no longer required.
- Hymnals and the book of Common Prayer will be returned to the pews the week before June 27th.
- We urge that windows remain open as much as possible.
- It is within the authority of the rector, in consultation with the wardens, to require vaccination (or a medical exemption) of **church staff, musicians/choristers, and volunteer leaders** of Christian formation (especially with children) and other programs. We believe All Saints staff, musicians, and leaders have been vaccinated but it might be prudent to verify this.