

Reformation Lutheran Church — June 27, 2021 Transition Plan Updates

Reformation's Transition Team, Worship and Music Team, and Council recommend the following updates to our practices based on recent CDC Guidance for fully vaccinated persons and on updates from The Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacrament (ECPWFS). These recommendations were approved by Council on Sunday, June 27, 2021 and are effective immediately.

I. WORSHIP

- A. In Worship we will continue to wear masks, covering both mouth and nose. (See Note A for details.)
- B. We will discontinue registration for Worship, but may resume if COVID counts rise in our communities, or if we have more regular attendees than social distancing allows.
- C. We will add hymns (all verses) and more musical liturgy back into the Service.
- D. The congregation may choose to hum behind their masks with the hymns and liturgy.
- E. We will continue to practice social distancing in the Sanctuary — 16 feet distance from singer(s) to congregation and 6 feet distance between household groups.
- F. We will work to limit the Service to no more than 60 minutes.
- G. We will continue to use pre-packaged communion elements, and will add a wine option to the grape juice we are currently using.
- H. We will involve more musicians in our Services and will schedule Choir Rehearsals to encourage more members to share their vocal talents.
- I. We will continue to keep outer doors open as long as weather permits and will keep Fans ON during Sanctuary use to promote good air flow.
- J. We are not yet ready to resume indoor Fellowship time after worship.

II. MEETINGS

- A. When meeting in groups of 15 persons or less, all present will be polled to determine comfort level of all present with regard to social distancing and mask wearing. While non-vaccinated persons are required to wear a mask at all times, if all agree, vaccinated persons may remove their masks. If possible, doors should be opened to increase air circulation in the room.
- B. We will not require outside groups to register attendees for their meetings, but will ask them to follow CDC guidelines and define their own comfort levels for social distancing.
- C. We are not yet ready to have indoor shared food events.

III. CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

- A. We will not encourage children to gather in groups (like Children's Chatter, Nursery, or in person Education) until we have better information from the CDC on children and the virus.
- B. Children will be invited to participate in worship as acolytes, cross bearers, or lectors as they are interested and able.
- C. Children who are able are encouraged to wear masks.

IV. NOTES

- A. **Masks.** The Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacrament notes that the latest CDC guidance for masks and social distancing is for what individuals can do

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-- not what congregations (in which both vaccinated and unvaccinated people gather together) should do. Congregations may include people who are unvaccinated, including children; persons who have not yet been, or may never be able to be vaccinated; and some who have refused vaccination. For the sake of the unvaccinated -- for their safety, and to avoid stigmatizing them, we will continue to wear masks in worship or whenever we gather in groups that may include non-vaccinated people.

- B. **Disinfecting.** We will drop requirements to disinfect surfaces like restroom exterior and interior after every single usage, but will continue to do routine cleaning. Hand sanitizer and trash cans will continue to be available at doors to the Sanctuary and in restrooms.
- C. **Safe Space Dinner Impacts.** To protect the safety of our youth guests while providing a warm and welcoming environment, we will ask guests and other Dinner participants to remain masked until they sit to eat. We will seat 4 (guests and hosts) around two tables pushed together, and will serve plated dinners. The Safe Space team is working with Prisma Health to determine if we can offer Covid vaccines at our Dinner in September — if that would be helpful for our guests.
- D. This Update is based on:
1. CDC Guidance for fully vaccinated people, which states:
 - a) Fully vaccinated people:
 - (1) Have a reduced risk of transmitting SARS-CoV-2 to unvaccinated people.
 - (2) Should still get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
 - (3) Should not visit private or public settings if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior 10 days or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
 - (4) Should continue to follow federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.
 - b) Indoor and outdoor activities pose minimal risk to fully vaccinated people.
 - c) See more information from the CDC at:
 - (1) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html> (02/19/21)
 - (2) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html> (05/28/21)
 2. Guidance from The Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacrament (ECPWFS). See the Consultation's full report at [Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life in a Lingering Pandemic](#).
 3. Guidance from our Transition Team:
Colleen Clark, Lawyer, Public Health, Worship and Music Team
Lynn Black, Forensic Scientist / Medical Technologist, Servants Team
Michael Reames, HR Director at Dick Smith Auto, Fellowship Team
Sabra Custer, Nurse Practitioner in infectious diseases, associate professor at UofSC College of Nursing
Wendell Gullede, Assistant Director of the Immunization Division at DHEC
Sam Ruff, Retired Treasurer and Property Chair
Ginny Eiwen, Congregation President, Transition Team Chair
Jim Potts, Technology Manager
Michelle Couri, Dialysis Technician, working toward a Nursing degree
Pastor Tim Bupp