

Kirk of Kildaire
Safe Gathering Task Force

Further Reopening Policies
Effective May 23 through August 31, 2021

Policies subject to revision depending upon changing circumstances

Due to the Delta variant and increasing cases, the Safe Gathering Task Force decided to extend these policies until the end of August.

Materials that could transmit infection via surface contact

1. Children's worship packets will be made available again.
2. Pew Hymnals and Bibles will be revisited in the future, dependent in part on having one service rather than two.
3. Communion will continue with the current system of individually packaged wafers and grape juice.
 - a. Communion by intinction and communion involving passing of elements down the rows will be revisited in the fall.
4. Collection plates will stay at the back of the Sanctuary for the time being.
5. Water fountains will be reopened.
 - a. Hand sanitizer will be available near the water fountain closest to the Sanctuary.

Distancing reduced to three feet

Where we ask for social distancing, the distance is reduced to three feet consistent with WHO guidance and practices in school classrooms.

Masks and Distancing in Various Settings

Mask policy for building entry – Masks continue to be required for building entry and may be removed only in certain settings.

Indoor worship

To protect children and immunocompromised individuals, everyone should wear masks. People in different households are requested to sit 3 feet apart.

- All Sanctuary rows will be used except for the first row, which will be reserved for worship leaders.
- Only adults should sit in the outermost seats near the side walls.
 - A diagram of the Sanctuary has been created to illustrate the safest areas for families with children.
- Worship leaders will remove masks when speaking.
- Chancel Choir may take masks off for Anthems, Responses, and Benedictions.
- Singing choirs will be being spaced 4 feet front to back for added safety.

- Children's/Youth choirs will always wear masks.

Indoor small groups composed of adults. Small groups where members know each other well may feel that they have accurate information about everyone's vaccination status.

- Three feet distancing is required but the group should decide whether to wear masks in a meeting.
- Zoom meetings continue to be a possibility.
- Hybrid in-person/Zoom meetings are also possible in the Session Room and in the Fellowship Hall.

Meals in the Fellowship Hall/Other Indoor Settings – Three feet spacing is required. For example, tables of 4 are appropriate when all individuals are from different households.

- Masks are required except when actively eating/drinking.

Outdoors – Based on new CDC guidance from 5/28/21, adults and children may safely gather without masks outdoors. If people are likely to come into close contact (less than 3 feet) with someone from another household for more than a few minutes, masks should be worn.

Masks in the Main Office area – Main office employees are not required to wear masks. When they leave the main office area, they must wear a mask.

- All others must wear a mask in the main office area, unless in a private office (door closed) as part of a small group meeting where the group has decided not to wear masks.

Miscellaneous

Nursery during worship will be made available again.

- All caregivers will be vaccinated and wear masks.

Sunday School teacher vaccination – All Sunday School teachers who work with children must be vaccinated and wear masks.

Pre-school teacher vaccination – Discussions will occur this summer concerning this issue for the start of the pre-school in the fall.

Signage for entry doors will say that not all adults are vaccinated.

Room Occupancy Signs

Current signs will be replaced with signs that say the occupancy limit is reached when people from different households can no longer remain three feet apart.

- Elevator occupancy is limited to two people as is currently the case.
 - A single household group of more than two people is also permissible.