

REOPENING WELL TEAM UPDATE

The Reopening Well Team met on September 8th to discuss church policies relative to COVID mitigation in the current climate of the Delta Variant. The team attempts to achieve a balance between physical health safety and the mental health benefits of the social aspects of church life, although weighting physical safety most highly. Find below the present guidance for church attendees resulting from this meeting:

Sunday Worship

- We will continue to follow Howard County and CDC guidelines of recommending that masks be worn for all attendees, both vaccinated and unvaccinated.
- We will continue with enforcing physical distancing by taping off every other pew. This will be revisited at such time that the attendance increases to the point that additional seating will be required.
- The choir has returned as of Sunday, September 19th. The same mask recommendation will apply to the choir and physical distancing will be employed to the extent possible in the choir loft. The choir will process and recess through the center aisle of the sanctuary, so if you are uncomfortable with being close to singers during that brief period of time, please select a seat near the outer aisles.
- It is intended to add the children's moment back into the worship service later in September. It is highly recommended that unvaccinated children older than 2 years wear masks.

Kids and Youth: The safety of all of our children and youth ministry participants and volunteers is always our #1 priority.

We will continue to adapt our safety guidelines as information becomes available.

Youth Ministry

- The guidelines below apply to all youth and volunteers participating in GUMC Youth Ministry activities.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask in indoor public places.
- If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, please wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#)].
- Unless otherwise requested, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and hand washing is encouraged.

GUMC Kids

- The guidelines below apply to all children and volunteers participating in GUMC Kids Ministry activities.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, and are age 2 or older, please wear a mask in indoor public places.

- If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, please wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#).
- Unless otherwise requested, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings.
- Individual seating mats will be provided to help children maintain a social distance while meeting.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and hand washing is encouraged.
- Snacks and drinks will not be provided during GUMC Kids time. Occasionally snacks or treats may be sent home.

Mask Mandate during Preschool Hours

- The GUMC Preschool has implemented a vaccination mandate for staff and a mask mandate for all attendees. In order for the church to do its part in protecting this unvaccinated population, there will be a mask mandate in effect for all visitors to the church during the Preschool hours of 8:15am – 1:45pm, Monday-Friday. This will be in effect in all common areas of the main floor of the church (hallways, narthex, Eyre Hall, Quilter's area, Kitchen, and restrooms), and the entire lower floor.