

## St. Matthew Safety Recommendations — June 2021

Our St. Matthew Board of Directors met Tues., May 18, to consider recent Covid-19 safety recommendations from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control). The following protocol is adopted for worship and congregational life beginning June 1.

### Thoughts on St. Matthew Practices

1. Our Christian faith community engages with people in all circumstances. While the Church adheres to a common confession regarding beliefs, it is not a homogenous group. Its members do not share the same experiences, opportunities, or views as one another. Our goal is to provide a ministry of Word and Sacrament, which always occurs in challenging times.
2. Integration is the reality for any congregation. There will always be vaccinated and unvaccinated members and visitors together. Our new guidelines reflect this goal.
3. Covid-19 is in early stages of research regarding cause, transmission, and short- and long-term effects. We cannot be overconfident in our assessment of the disease or the social situation surrounding it. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals engage some level of risk.
4. Vaccinations are available for measles, mumps, rubella, shingles, herpes, chicken pox, flu, covid, smallpox, malaria, and other diseases. Individuals may receive or decline these for any reason.
5. Individuals make their own health care decisions according to personal need, the counsel of those in the medical community, and conscience.

### St. Matthew Recommendations — June, 2021

In accordance with May 2021 guidelines released by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and the Jackson County Health Department, **masking and social distancing are no longer required for individuals who are fully vaccinated** for gatherings of any size indoors or outdoors. This takes effect at St. Matthew June 1, 2021.

1. Out of concern for our members and visitors, especially those most at risk (elderly, immune-compromised, those with respiratory illness, etc.) our Board of Directors encourages those who gather to follow CDC guidelines for disease prevention.
2. The CDC recommends that those who have not been fully vaccinated continue to wear a mask when participating in worship and activities at church for their own protection.
3. The CDC recommends quarantine (refraining from public activities for 14 days) for those who have not been vaccinated and experience symptoms of Covid-19 or are exposed to someone recently diagnosed with Covid-19.
4. All members and visitors are encouraged to show care and consideration for others regarding handshakes, hugs, and personal contact. Some members and visitors will refrain from these.
5. Some who have received the vaccine will continue to wear a mask for personal safety.