

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CLARENDON HILLS
PROCEDURES FOR REGATHERING FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES
IN PHASE 5 OF THE RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN FOR COVID-19
(Revised August 3, 2021)

BACKGROUND

Effective June 11, 2021 Illinois entered Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan. On June 14, 2021 a set of procedures for this phase was approved by Session. On July 27, 2021 CDC issued updated guidance for people who are fully vaccinated. The update was prompted by the increases in COVID cases nationally, especially in areas designated as having substantial and high community transmission of the virus, including the delta variant. Also on July 27, IDPH announced that the state would fully align with the CDC update. On July 28, DuPage County was designated as having substantial community transmission of the virus and recommended following the CDC update. This revision to the procedures is based on the updated guidance and the status of DuPage County.

This general guidance indicates that additional updated and more detailed information may be coming from CDC and IDPH. As any updates are issued, these procedures will be modified as needed.

SUMMARY OF GUIDANCE

- Recommendations for Indoor Settings
 - Risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection, severe disease, and death is reduced for fully vaccinated people. Though they happen in only a small proportion of people who are fully vaccinated, some infections do occur among fully vaccinated people. Fully vaccinated people who do become infected with the Delta variant can transmit it to others. Therefore, fully vaccinated people can further reduce their risk of becoming infected with the Delta variant and transmitting it to others by wearing a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high community transmission. *[Note: DuPage County is currently an area of substantial transmission.]*
 - Prevention measures are still recommended for unvaccinated people. *[Note: Prevention measures include wearing a mask, social distancing, and hand washing.]*
- Recommendations for Outdoor Settings
 - Current data suggest the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in outdoor settings is minimal. In general, fully vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask outdoors.

ASSUMPTIONS FOR CPC

Those attending in-person worship services may include both fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Some adults may not have received a vaccination and children under the age of 12 are not currently eligible for vaccination. It is not practical to determine the vaccination status of all attending worship and reliance will be placed on an individual's compliance with procedures.

PREPARING THE BUILDING BEFORE A SERVICE

The following procedures will be used before any worship service:

- Doors 1A, 2A, 5C, 6D, 7D will be opened for entry.
- Signs will be posted at the entry doors and several locations to advise those coming in about the requirements while in the building. **All must keep face coverings on that cover both nose and mouth at all times.** Those who are not fully vaccinated must maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet.
- Hymnals and Bibles can be placed in the pew racks. Paper bulletins can be available for distribution.
- If any rooms on any floors are to be used for children's Sunday School classes, these rooms should be cleaned before and after using the same procedures used by the Kids' Academy on a daily basis.
- Seating in the Sanctuary will be unrestricted. As a courtesy for those wishing to maintain social distancing, a section with alternate pew ends roped off will be set up without any implication of vaccination status.
- Restrooms will no longer be labeled for use by only one person at a time.
- Water fountains will have the drinking spout covered and will be labelled "Use Only For Bottle Filling".
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the building entry doors and at the entry to the Sanctuary.

- A supply of face coverings will be available to distribute to those who arrive without one.
- The air conditioning system in the Sanctuary will be checked for providing adequate fresh air flow and filtration.

LIMITING ATTENDANCE

- There are no capacity limits on attendance.
- There will not be any preregistration.
- Those who are not fully vaccinated or are in high risk groups (e.g., with underlying illness, unable to wear a face covering) will be encouraged to participate in the service remotely via the livestreaming. Congregants will be encouraged to evaluate their individual risk of being in a group and make a decision that they are comfortable with on whether or not to attend an in-person service.

AS PEOPLE ARRIVE

- There will not be Greeters at the entry doors.
- There will not be temperature checks.
- There will be no staffed Nursery in operation.
- If Sunday School classes are in operation, procedures for unvaccinated people will be followed:
 - All students and teachers must wear a face covering and maintain social distancing of 6 feet.
 - Classes will be held only in rooms equipped with air purifiers.

CONDUCT OF THE SERVICE

- Those leading the service, including the pastor(s) and liturgist will wear a face covering when they are not speaking. The leader presenting the time for youngest disciples will wear a mask as these children are not yet vaccinated.
- Music can be provided by an accompanist on the organ or piano. A fully vaccinated soloist or choir can perform while wearing face coverings.
- Congregational singing is allowed while all are wearing face coverings.
- Group recitation of opening sentences, prayers, responsive reading, or other parts of the liturgy is allowed while all are wearing face coverings.
- During the sharing of the peace, congregants will be advised to follow their comfort level about hand shaking.
- Offering plates and attendance pads can be passed.
- Communion can be served in several ways that reduce multiple contacts with the elements.
 - The preferred method is using prepackaged cups containing bread and juice. The cups will be available for people to pick-up as they enter the Sanctuary.
 - Distribution with trays passed by ushers at the pews can be done with the bread already broken into pieces and individual cups. Hand sanitizer located at the end of each pew can be passed before distribution.
 - Intinction may be used with a hand sanitizer station located before receiving the bread.

CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE

- Congregants may leave by the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary or the front door of the Sanctuary.
- Pastors will greet outside weather permitting.
- Hospitality service will be done outdoors weather permitting.
- No special cleaning procedures are indicated.

COMMUNICATION

- These revised procedures will be communicated to the congregation with an emphasis on the prevention measures that will still be in place. The communication should include the following points:
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- It is important to keep in mind that the pandemic is not yet over and some precautions are still needed. This is especially true in light of increasing cases and the emergence of virus variants.
- People who are not fully vaccinated should decide on whether to attend in-person or to join the service remotely. If they come in-person, they must wear a face covering and maintain 6-foot separation from others at all times. If they have any COVID-like symptoms, they should participate remotely.
- People who are fully vaccinated must wear a face covering at all times.
- General instructions on the procedures will be sent to the congregation via multiple means including email, letter, and posting on the website. The instructions will be included in the weekly Constant Contact email for a period of several weeks to reinforce the message.
- Signage posted on the entry doors will focus on the face covering and social distancing requirements for those who are not fully vaccinated.
- Procedure reminders will be displayed on the video screens in the narthex and hallway. They will also be displayed on the Sanctuary screens before the start of a service.
- The Communication Committee will develop the wording and handle these communications.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events that involve a service (baptisms, weddings, funerals, etc.) will follow these same procedures with modifications as necessary for the event.