

The Diocese of Southern Ohio

Updated Guidelines for Public Worship

May 19, 2021

As the CDC guidelines are relaxed in terms of masking and social distancing, we are recommending that we return to regular in-person worship with the number of people permitted to be determined according to the size and circumstances of each individual congregation.

Further recommendations are as follows:

If the congregation is made up of vaccinated persons only:

- No masks or social distancing are required
- Singing is permitted
- Communion in bread only until further notice

If the congregation has some people who are unvaccinated:

- Masks and social distancing recommended
- Singing is permitted through masks
- Communion in bread only using previously published guidelines

As there is a wide variation in the circumstances and context of our congregations, the guidance proposed at this time is to **allow the clergy and vestry of each congregation to determine the best practice for their congregation.** The desire should be to err on the side of caution.

In a community where “all are welcome - no exceptions” it behooves us to provide as safe an environment as we can. This may necessitate masking and social distancing longer than the CDC requirements suggest or what we would prefer. It also behooves us to **vigorously promote vaccination**, as well as hand washing, good ventilation and outdoor gathering as much as possible.

Congregations may return to socially distanced coffee hours, preferably held outside.

Finally, all congregations are encouraged to continue to live stream services and Zoom services and meetings as much as possible.

Questions regarding the diocesan guidelines for in-person worship during COVID-19 may be directed to the Rev. Canon John R. Johanssen, Canon to the Ordinary (jjohanssen@diosohio.org), or Carine de Lange, Operations Executive (cdelange@diosohio.org).

Choosing Safer Activities

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

Unvaccinated People	Examples of Activities	Fully Vaccinated People
Outdoor		
	Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
	Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
	Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
	Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
	Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
Indoor		
	Visit a barber or hair salon	
	Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
	Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
	Go to an indoor movie theater	
	Attend a full-capacity worship service	
	Sing in an indoor chorus	
	Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
	Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

Get a COVID-19 vaccine

 **Prevention measures not needed**

 **Take prevention measures**
Wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

• Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
• CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

 [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

The CDC offers this list of safe activities and other recommendations on their website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>