

Indoor Re-Gathering Protocols

(Revised 11/2/2021 – These protocols are subject to change at any time.)

Liability Disclaimer

If you are attending an in-person gathering at St. Matthew on or after October 3, 2021, it is assumed you are doing so out of your own free-will and that you bear all risks and liability associated with disease contraction and transmission. St. Matthew assumes no liability for any disease contraction or transmission of any persons attending an in-person gathering on the property of St. Matthew Episcopal Church. **If you are not fully vaccinated against COVID 19, you are strongly encouraged to attend services and future activities Virtually from home.**

Staying Home When Sick

Staying home when sick is essential to keeping infections out of the parish and preventing spread to others. All attendees or staff members who have COVID-like symptoms, including those of infectious illness like flu and colds, are to stay home and seek medical evaluation, including testing for COVID and other respiratory infections before coming to church. Multiple Virtual options for attendance are available from home.

Most coronavirus illnesses are mild with fever and cough. Adults and children with COVID-19 have reported the following symptoms or combinations of symptoms. These may appear 2–14 days after exposure to the virus:

- Fever of 100.4°F or 38°C or higher
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Other signs of new illness that are unrelated to a preexisting condition (such as seasonal allergies)

This list does not include all possible symptoms. Please talk to your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you. Children with COVID-19 usually have milder symptoms.

Returning to Church After a Positive COVID 19 Test

If a person tests positive for COVID by a molecular or antigen test, they can return to church when the following criteria are met:

- 14 days since symptom onset, or since positive test specimen collection date if no symptoms are present (up to 20 days for those who are severely ill or severely immunocompromised), AND
- 24 hours after fever resolves without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND
- Symptoms have improved.

This isolation guidance applies regardless of vaccination status.

(OVER)

Masks

Masks are to be worn by all people on church property without exceptions. Masks are also to fully cover the nose and mouth snuggly. N95, FDA approved KN95, and surgical masks are preferable.

Social Distancing

Please maintain a distance of at least three feet from people outside of your household at all times. Please respect and help accommodate those who wish to keep a greater distance. Seating and movement will be self-governed.

Restrooms

Only one person is allowed in either restroom at any time. However, multiple people may use either restroom if they are from the same household. Restroom doors must stay open for ventilation.

Food and Drink

No food or drink is to be consumed on the property of the church.

Fans and doors

All fans are to remain on at low speed and all nave and narthex doors are to remain open at all times while people are in the building.

Coat Rack and Personal Belongings

In this phase, the coat rack will not be available. Please keep all personal belongings with you at all times.

Things to Remember

1. Cancellation of Live in-person gatherings can happen at any time. Patience and understanding will be important to exercise as we enter into this new phase of opportunity.
2. Bring a coat on cooler days. The heat will be on but it will not mean it will be effective due to the open ventilation schematic.
3. Adhere faithfully to these protocols. You will be asked to leave if there is non-compliance.
4. Protocols may be added or deleted as conditions develop. Please be ready to receive new instructions as they are available.

Virtual Alternatives to In-Person Gathering:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NeighborhoodParish/>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1qLQ1X-HRQ3SSu-6n9_Q8Q

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86479198718?pwd=L3U0ZzgzeVY5MlQxbHp3ZTR0Ty8yQT09>