

## Indoor Gathering Protocols

(Effective at midnight, 3/13/22)

### Liability Disclaimer

If you are attending an in-person gathering at St. Matthew of any kind, 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 with available booster shots, you are strongly encouraged to attend services and activities Virtually from home.**

### Staying Home When Sick

For all people who attend St. Matthew, 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 as needed, including testing for COVID and other respiratory infections before coming to church. Multiple Virtual options for attendance at nearly all gatherings of the parish are now 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.

### New Building Use Schedule

Effective **Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at midnight**, the schedule for all building use will be separated into two modules: 1. The *Safe Haven Period*, and 2. The *Open Gathering Period*. The *Safe Haven Period* will be every Sunday from midnight until 9:30 AM. During the *Safe Haven Period*, COVID 19 safety protocols as described below will be in effect for all people using St. Matthew's property for any reason. The *Open Gathering Period* will include all other times of the week from 9:31 AM on Sunday to 11:59 PM on Saturday. During the *Open Gathering Period*, no COVID 19 safety protocols are in effect or required.

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**During the *Safe Haven Period* (Sundays from midnight to 9:30 AM), the following protocols are in effect for all people gathering at St. Matthew:**

Masks

Masks are to be worn by all people on church property without exceptions. Masks are also to fully cover the nose and mouth snugly. 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 a 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, except Holy Communion, is to be consumed on the property of the church during this time period.

Things to Remember

1. Cancellation of Live in-person gatherings can happen at any time. Please continue to exercise patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the ever-changing nature of the Pandemic.
2. Please adhere faithfully to these protocols. In-person gatherings may be discontinued if there is non-compliance.
3. 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1qLQ1X-HRQ3SSu-6n9_Q8Q)

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86479198718?pwd=L3U0ZzgzeVY5MIQxbHp3ZTR0Ty8yQT09>