

Dear Epiphany Parish,

After reviewing the latest [Diocesan COVID-19 requirements and guidance](#), current CDC recommendations, and local COVID-19 transmission rates, the Executive Committee has approved the following updated COVID-19 protocols for our parish. These protocols will go into effect this Sunday, September 4th. Of course, we will continue to monitor local rates of illness and transmission and we all should be prepared to adapt these protocols as necessary.

A few things to note:

- We will continue to offer a live stream of our in-person worship each week for anyone who is uncomfortable worshipping in-person, traveling, sick, or unable to be in-person for any other reason. We will also continue to hold our Wednesday service of Morning Prayer over the phone each Wednesday at 7:15am.

- **Beginning on Sunday, September 11th**, we will return to having two in-person services of Holy Communion. The 8am service will be Rite I Holy Communion and the 10am service will be Rite II Holy Communion.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Rev. Christen or our Senior Warden, George Ford.

-The Executive Committee of Epiphany Parish

Updated COVID-19 protocols effective September 4th, 2022

Facemasks: Masks continue to be optional in our church building. We encourage everyone to follow CDC recommendations around wearing masks indoors: [How to Protect Yourself and Others | CDC](#) We will continue to open some windows in the sanctuary when the weather is warm enough to comfortably do so.

Social Distancing: While many of the pews in our sanctuary are now open, some are still marked off to provide space for those who wish to social distance. A few pews on the front right side of the sanctuary (When facing the altar) are roped off for those who wish to continue to social distance. We urge everyone to respect each other's comfort levels around distancing and physical contact.

Sunday School: Facemasks are optional for Sunday School teachers and students. We will continue to run air purifiers in the undercroft and open windows while the weather is warm enough to do so. Sunday School may take place either indoors in the undercroft or outside.

Holy Communion: Holy Communion will be distributed around the altar rail. We will return to offering the Common Cup at Communion. However, following guidance from our diocese, we will continue to refrain from Intinction (dipping the bread/wafer into the chalice of wine) for the time being.

Fellowship Events: Fellowship events with food and drinks may take place but it is still encouraged to serve individually wrapped foods and/or have designated servers to distribute food rather than shared serving utensils.

Vaccination: Following our Diocesan policies, full COVID vaccination, including appropriate booster shots, is required of all persons, clergy or lay, who are engaged in ministry with the most vulnerable, including unvaccinated children, homebound or immune-compromised persons, and those in hospitals and care facilities.

Pastoral visits: Masks are required for all pastoral visits in the homes of those who are sick or at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Pastoral visits should be brief and minimal physical proximity is safer.

If you are Sick: Please follow the latest CDC isolation and quarantine guidance if you are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19: [Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19 | CDC](#). We ask that you join us virtually for worship if you are ill, are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days (with or without symptoms).

If you are Exposed: If you have had a close contact or high-risk transmission exposure with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days, we encourage you to join us online to protect those who are vulnerable for serious illness within our community. If you do enter our building within 10 days of close contact exposure to COVID-19, please wear a high-quality mask to help protect others in our community: [Understanding Exposure Risks | CDC](#)
[What to Do If You Were Exposed to COVID-19 | CDC](#)

Contact Tracing: We will no longer be keeping track of people who enter our building for contact tracing, but we still ask you to contact our parish office to let us know if you test positive for COVID-19 and have attended an in-person service, meeting, or other gathering in our building within 10 days before developing symptoms (or within 10 days before testing positive if you have no symptoms).