Worship Updates

October 25, 2021

First Christian Church of Eugene
Worship Status Updates

October 25

On 10/25/21 the FCC Executive Board met and reviewed the number of daily new cases of covid in Lane County and updated guidelines for in person worship.

We will resume in person worship this Sunday, October 31, with universal masking, social distancing in the pews, and only those with proof of vaccination or a negative covid-19 test in the last 72 hours will be permitted to attend in person worship.

Let's review our current protocols and explain our new addition.
What kind of mask will I need and where will I get one?

Every person who attends in person worship will need to wear a mask. By now you have your preferred masks at home that cover your mouth and nose well for you to be shopping, at the doctor’s office, in the grocery store. The church will provide masks at the door on your way into the Sanctuary if you have forgotten yours.
Will I need to be vaccinated to attend church in person?

YES.

Everyone who is 12 and older must provide proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test result from the last 72 hours, in order to attend indoor Sunday worship service.

Children under 12 years: Vaccines are only now becoming available for children ages 5-11. Until vaccines become available for young children, children under 12 years may not attend in person worship activities without a negative test result or until we can set up a separate space for unvaccinated children to gather safely. We are making preparations to welcome children.
Why Proof of Vaccination?

Safety and care for others in our church family and our community is, and always has been, a central tenant of our faith. Vaccination for COVID-19 and the use of face masks have been shown as the most effective tools against the life-threatening effects of the disease. In this way, we will show love for each other and our greater community.

Asking everyone to provide proof of vaccination will reassure our congregants and our community that we are committed to keeping public health as our guiding light. Proof of vaccination is a standard at many public sites, including restaurants, entertainment and sports venues, etc.
How do I show proof of vaccination?

You may either email a picture of your card to the church office (office@heartofeugene.org or to aprile@heartofeugene.org), upload a photo of your vaccination card when you register for worship on Breeze, or you can also show your vaccination card at the entrance to the church on Sunday morning.

We don’t need a copy of it, we just need to see that it’s completed. You will only need to show your proof of vaccination one time.

If you haven’t shared your card in advance or don’t have proof of vaccination with you (or proof of a negative covid test within 72 hours), we will invite you to return home and watch the service at home via Zoom or YouTube. We will look forward to seeing you at a future worship service once you have provided proof of vaccination.
What provisions will be made for young families and maximizing safety for children?

The health and safety of our yet unvaccinated children is of utmost importance. We are doing our best to keep our unvaccinated children separate from our adults for their safety and for the safety of the congregation. So, at this time, unvaccinated children will not be able to be in the Sanctuary which will be reserved for vaccinated adults.

We are preparing Grace Chapel, so that families with unvaccinated children who wish to attend worship may do so in a separate space and watch the YouTube broadcast from that room. We hope this room is available to families with young children on November 7.
Are there times when I should not attend in person worship?

Yes.

Please, plan to NOT attend in-person church if:

- You are unvaccinated.

- You have any symptoms: Fever, chills, cough, headache, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, chills, runny nose, increased sneezing, new loss of taste and/or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.

- Your doctor feels that you are immunosuppressed.
How we determine if we are in-person for worship

Daily new cases

Daily new cases is the number of new COVID cases per day per unit of population (we measure per 100K people).

We have been using the guidance and information from Lane County Public Health and covidactnow.org.

The chart to the left assigns the number of daily new cases to a color.

Dark Red and Red are severe and very high numbers of cases. Orange, yellow, and green signify lower case counts.

Source: Covidactnow.org
FCC Updated Guidelines for In Person Worship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK LEVEL</th>
<th>WORSHIP STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dark Red/Extreme</td>
<td>Remote Worship/Remote Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red/Very High</td>
<td>Remote Worship - worship team in building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/High</td>
<td>In Person worship with RSVP, universal masking, socially distanced seating and proof of vaccination required. No coffee hour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow/Medium</td>
<td>Same as orange level but with coffee hour outside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green/Low</td>
<td>In person worship with masks, social distancing, proof of vaccination and indoor refreshments.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Covidactnow.org
Who developed these protocols?

Our Executive Team and members of our COVID-19 response team met and were supported by members of the Board in deciding to require proof of vaccination for worship. These protocols are based on our shared desire to demonstrate Christian love by caring and protecting members and friends of our church community by following the best available public health advice and recommendations to keep everyone safe. They were provided to us by our friends at First Congregational Church and are based on best practices provided by medical professionals and through scientific research.