

# **Revisions to Minnehaha's COVID-19 Mask Policy**

## *June 10, 2021*

Our Covid Task Force met this week. After our meeting last month, there have been a number of changes.

### **The Latest COVID-19 Data for the Twin Cities**

- The CDC has stated that the chance for Covid transmission when we are outdoors is very low.
- Hennepin and Ramsey counties have more than 70% of their eligible population fully vaccinated.
- Anecdotally, our own congregation has a very high rate of eligible persons fully vaccinated, including our entire staff.
- The state-wide 7-day average positivity rate is below 2%, and the positivity rates for Hennepin and Ramsey counties are lower than the state-wide average.
- Both Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools changed their policies last week so that masks were optional for children outside for recess.

### **Masks Are Now Optional for Outdoor Worship**

We are going to follow these changes by making a change of our own: masks are optional for outdoor worship, beginning this Sunday. We ask that you still bring a mask, just in case you might need it for a one-on-one conversation, but the science is indicating that worshipping outside is a very low risk for transmission of Covid-19.

### **If It Rains, We'll Worship Inside Wearing Masks**

One more change: If there is an active threat of rain, we will move worship inside to the sanctuary, and you are welcome to come inside as well. For indoor worship, masks will still be required, and we will tape off every other pew.

### **Plan for the Heat: Bring Water**

If I still have your attention, just a couple more things – it's been hot recently! Please bring water with you to worship so you can stay hydrated, and dress appropriately for the weather.

### **You Can Bring Shade, Too**

Also, we are aware that while the lawn has a lot of shade, we've been having more people than shade. If you have some kind of sun shelter (like an EZ up canopy) without walls that you can bring to worship and set up for yourself or others, that would be greatly appreciated.

### **Remember: We Livestream Every Service**

As always, we will be livestreaming worship, whether it is outside or inside, and you can always choose to watch from an electronic device of your choice.

We look forward to seeing you in the lawn or on a screen!