

# Updated COVID Protocols for FUMC

Effective Date – 03/14/22

## Mask Mandate Update

As you know the current statewide mask mandate ended on February 16, 2022. First United Methodist Church chose to continue to enforce mask wearing inside the entirety of the church for a minimum of thirty additional days. We continued to assess the transmission and hospitalizations due to Covid along with state and county health officials. The Covid Response Team held an in-depth meeting on Wednesday March 9, 2022 to modify our congregation's Covid protocols which are listed below.

## Mask Rules Inside the Church

Effective March 14<sup>th</sup> we will no longer require masks inside the church with the exception of the following:

- Main Office and Conference Room during regular business hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
  - Masks will be required through the end of business day on Thursday April 28, 2022.

**Effective with the work week beginning May 2, 2022 First United Methodist Church will fully drop all mask requirements inside the entirety of the church.**

## Mask Rules for Tiny Tots Preschool

Effective March 12, 2022 per State of California Health and Human Services Agency universal masking in childcare settings will terminate. Masks will be optional in Tiny Tots Preschool.

## General Public Mask Rules:

Masks continue be required for everyone in high transmission settings like public transit, emergency shelters, health care settings, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and long-term care facilities.

## Food Requirements – Small/Large Groups/Events

Effective March 14<sup>th</sup> we will no longer require individualized meals/snacks or drinks for small/large group meeting or events.

## Communion

We will return to serving Holy Communion at the alter railing during in-person worship service on April 3, 2022.

## Closing Thoughts from the Covid Response Team:

We value the health and safety of anyone that comes into our church building. Although we will be removing the mask requirement, there may be some that are more comfortable continuing to wear masks and social distance. FUMC will continue to make available masks to anyone who needs or wants one. We encourage people to do what they are comfortable with and know that we are here to support you in whatever choice you make. We ask everyone to please be gracious to those that are more comfortable continuing to mask and social distance. We are thankful for your effort in helping to follow the protocols that have been set in place. We will continue to livestream our worship services for those who wish to continue worshipping with us online. It has been a long road to get to where we are today. It has been with your diligence, that we are able to begin to move forward into our post-pandemic future.