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Worship & Gatherings Protocols March 1, 2022

We've come to another point where St. John protocols for worship and gatherings are changing.

Your church leadership uses guidance from public health officials and church resources to make decisions on implementing protocols to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our faith community.

Based on current CDC metrics, Will County and surrounding counties are at "low" risk for community spread. Effective immediately, we are observing the following practices and protocols for worship and gatherings at St. John:

- Masking is optional for people entering the building for worship or other gatherings. If you choose to wear a mask, your decision is welcome. If you choose not to wear a mask, your decision is welcome.
- Whether or not you choose to mask, know our community values dignity and respect, and we expect our faith community to support one another. If you choose to wear a mask, please remember high quality surgical masks, K95 and N95 masks offer the most protection.
- If you exhibit any Covid symptoms, please stay home until you can test and verify you are not infected with COVID-19. (Frankly, we appreciate all who stay home with illness of any kind. Staying home gives you the gift of healing, and reduces the chances of spreading illness to others).
- Sometimes, you may see pastors and other staff wearing masks during worship or other St. John gatherings as a way to protect ourselves and people who are immunocompromised.
- Ministry and community groups using the building may choose as a whole to wear masks. We support and respect the choices groups make collectively.
- Ministry and community groups may also decide among themselves if they are comfortable with eating together or not, and we highly encourage personal servings, such as individually packaged items, or one person designated as server while masked/gloved.
- Decisions about congregational meals will be made on a case-by-case basis, given these events require extra planning/protocolling.

Any further updates and/or change of protocols will be communicated to the congregation via email and website.