



August 6, 2021

Dear Congregation,

As you are aware, the CDC on July 27, updated its [guidance for fully vaccinated people](#), recommending that everyone wear a mask in indoor public settings in areas of substantial and high transmission, regardless of vaccination status.

The State of Iowa, in numerous counties including Polk, has now entered a HIGH level of community transmission for Covid-19. Detailed county information can be found at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/>.

As a result, our Re-Opening Task Force has recommended, and the Session has approved, that **masks must be worn** for all **indoor programs, including worship service**. This change is effective immediately, and is required whether you have been vaccinated or not. This includes adults, and children age 2 and up. After Worship, Fellowship Time will continue to be held outdoors and masks will not be required.

The Task Force carefully considered the new CDC guidance and how it best applies to our church. The Task force will meet at the end of August to reevaluate the mask mandate. As we currently do, Central will continue to take every precaution to ensure your health and safety, from sanitizing to social distancing. And we will continue to offer ways of connecting online for those who prefer to remain at home, from livestreamed worship services to hybrid meetings for committees and groups.

Please know that we remain committed to your health and safety, following the best practices recommended by public health authorities. And we are also committed to treating everyone in our congregation with respect and courtesy, as we take active steps to ensure the safety of all.

We know that many of you have taken the important step of getting your vaccinations to protect yourselves and those around you, and we all appreciate those efforts. We also know that our members are not likely to be those affected by densely populated events where the Delta variant is currently causing the most concern. However, we are being cautious, and we appreciate your help as health experts continue to analyze the data. All of us can be assured that we are doing our part to protect one another, our families and our community.

Grace & Peace—

*John McCarroll*

Communications, Chair Person and Session Elder

**CDC source data:**

[www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0730-mmwr-covid-19.html](http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0730-mmwr-covid-19.html)  
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html)  
<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>