



Episcopal Diocese

— OF CENTRAL FLORIDA —

GENERAL COVID GUIDELINES (Effective August 24, 2022)

These COVID-19 guidelines for Episcopal churches and schools in the Diocese of Central Florida are effective as of August 24, 2022 and have been approved by The Rt. Rev. Gregory O. Brewer.

1. Masks and face coverings are no longer required.
2. The common cup/chalice may be used. If you are returning to a common cup you must have an intinction chalice available at all services.
3. There are no longer special directions for clergy or lay eucharistic ministers serving in the church or in a congregational setting.
4. Clergy and lay eucharistic visitors should continue to mask when taking communion to the homebound, those in a hospital, assisted care facility or nursing home due to a higher risk of exposure for the communicant.
5. The church must have readily available high-quality masks, sanitizing gel or wipes for those who choose to use them.
6. The rector/priest-in-charge/interim rector may continue to operate on more restrictive previous COVID guidelines if they are uncomfortable or not ready to implement the current guidelines.

In Central Florida our COVID spread rate is still at an alarmingly high rate. In most of our counties the positivity rate is 20% or higher. Because of this, please note that if you are symptomatic, or if you test positive for COVID, you are asked to quarantine for 10 days instead of the current CDC guideline of five days. This is due to our large elderly population and to safeguard those who may be immuno-compromised.

7. Quarantining is no longer required if simply exposed to a COVID-positive person. However, a high-quality mask should be worn for the first ten days followed by a COVID test.
 - If your test is negative, you may resume your normal activities.
 - If your test is positive, you must remain masked for 10 additional days.
8. Please keep in mind that once you have tested positive you may continue to test positive for 90 days even though you are not contagious. There is no need to COVID test again unless you have been exposed to a COVID-positive person and you are showing symptoms of COVID.
9. If you are immunocompromised or at higher risk of COVID infection (unvaccinated, never had COVID, elderly or advised by your health care professional), it is better to avoid high-risk, close contact in large groups or potential mass spreading events.

If you have any specific questions about COVID-19 cases, decisions for closure or need guidance, please contact The Rev. Canon Scott Holcombe at 321-525-2366 or email him at sholcombe@cfdiocese.org.