

Grace Church Stamford

Fall 2021 Covid protocol

- Masks are required in the sanctuary whether you are vaccinated or not.
You will not be asked about vaccination status, nor are you being required to be vaccinated.
- The fellowship hall/overflow room is a designated space for those who cannot wear a mask.
 - Of particular concern are those who for medical reasons cannot wear a mask. This accommodation is being made for them to be as present as possible in the corporate worship.
- If you have a conscientious objection before God to wearing a mask, that is, you believe the government is causing you to sin against God by wearing a mask, then you will not be required to wear a mask. The Session of Grace Church Stamford will honor your conscience before God and view this allowance as an expression of civil disobedience. You will be directed to the no-mask room to participate in corporate worship.
 - For conscientious objectors, the Session would ask that you are prayerful and mindful of brothers and sisters who for medical reasons are present in the no-mask room.
- The City of Stamford has issued an Executive Order for masking indoors in public facilities including Houses of Worship (<https://bit.ly/3sE5xPP>).
 - The intent of the mask requirement is to ‘avoid the delay or cancellation of events or restrictions on gathering size.’ The City does not wish to prevent our assembly, but is requiring reasonable safe conditions for assembly through the issued public health protocol.
 - The Session has taken into consideration the State’s reporting of increased number of cases of Covid in Fairfield County and the city’s Executive Order in order to make our determination for indoor masking.
 - Included in the Executive Order is a provision for an indoor private space not open to the public where masks are not required.
 - The Session has deemed that the provision is a convenient accommodation, and designates the fellowship hall (no-mask room) as that private space. However, if the provision had not been included, the Session would still maintain that the accommodations that have been made for conscientious objectors are legitimate.
- If you arrive late and wish to worship in the sanctuary but there is no room, and you are not a conscientious objector, then if there is space in the fellowship hall, you may join in the no-mask space, and would encourage wearing a mask.
- If you arrive late and wish to worship in the no-mask room but there is no space, you are free to join in the sanctuary provided there is space and a mask is worn. You also have the choice of participating through the live-stream.

- Remain home if you have symptoms or have been in close contact with a Covid-positive person.
- The mask policy is subject to change and may be updated in the Winter.