

## Updated Guidelines

A reminder of how these decisions are made: taking into account CDC guidance and COVID-19 indicators throughout the diocese, the Bishops of the Diocese of Massachusetts offer [requirements and guidelines](#). Parishes discern how to apply these guidelines to their own contexts; they always have the right to be stricter than what the Bishops allow but cannot be more lenient than what is permitted. Redeemer's Regathering Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Erica Brotschi, works with great care to make a recommendation to the Vestry regarding guidelines for Redeemer. The Vestry votes on these guidelines; the Worship Committee is responsible for implementing them in the context of worship.

### **For Indoor Worship:**

The choir will remain masked and distanced in the chancel. Fans and air filters will be active. The Regathering Team will monitor air quality regularly and windows will remain open; current measurements suggest that air inside the church with windows open is of nearly the same quality as outdoor air

Scientific studies show that singing spreads more aerosols than speaking, and increases the risk-level of a gathering. Because of this, masks are required in all parts of the church for singing.

**Left/Pulpit Side of the Church:** People may sit as close to each other as they like. All may remain unmasked while seated in this section. However, those wishing to sing will need to mask while singing. In addition, masks are required while moving to and from your seat and while away from your seat to receive communion. Masks will be provided if needed.

**Lectern/Piano Side of the Church:** Will be distanced and masked at all times.

### **For Non-Worship Events:**

**Masking:** Masking continues to be required in common spaces (hallways, bathrooms) and in meeting rooms. However, if a group is the last group to use that room for the day (giving time for aerosols to settle and air to circulate before the room is next used), they may remove their masks in that smaller room only. Church groups are asked to check with everyone *in advance of the meeting* to see what people are comfortable with before removing masks in a meeting. All children's and adult formation will be masked.

**Coffee Hour:** Masks inside the room will not be required.