

SPECIAL COVID PROTOCOL STATEMENT

COVID times are still turbulent! Our country may be facing another spike on top of recent increases in cases. Many of our families have been touched by the virus. Some severely. Hopefully, the vaccine will help to protect our elderly, first responders and healthcare workers. Somewhere down the line, all will be able to get the shot(s). Please know that this note is sent because we love you and that we want everyone to do their best for those around them.

For the most part, you have done a really good job of following the guidelines for personal protective equipment and procedures that were set forth. At this time, we do not know of cases that were transmitted by attending worship. There could have been. Your elders have been lax in not reminding us all that now, more than ever, guidelines need to be followed. Masks are required at all times in the building for worship or other church sponsored functions. Hand sanitizer is provided for you to clean your hands as you come in if you have not done so before entering. Please continue to be socially distant in the pews by approximately 6 ft except for the family that you are around all the time. Folks have become accustomed to gathering again in the auditorium after worship. Hopefully only for the near future, please exit by the back rows going out first and then everyone following by row. Do not congregate in the back or in the halls. Try not to bunch up at the entrances as people are trying hard to get out. Refrain from removing your face covering until you are away from entrances and exits. **THIS IS HARD!** We need to talk to visitors and visit with our fellow Christians. It's cold this time of year!

But remember, all of this is more for the protection of others than for yourself. Don't adhere to the guidelines just because we ask you to. Do it because we love our brothers and sisters and want the best for them. And we want the best for you. Jack referred to this in his sermon on Sunday. Phillip will be sending a link to enable you to read an article from the Christian Chronicle about the wearing of masks. The real reason why.

Again, thank you for all the hard work and dedication that you have put in to enable us to get together again. Hopefully, "all together" in the not-so-distant future. We love you all and wish you both health and happiness as we, at times, struggle to come together. God knows our hearts. He blesses us in so many ways. He did not send the virus. His love, peace and comfort will get us through it.

In Christian Love,
Your eldership