

Dear NPC Members and Friends,

The following report was sent to the session and approved unanimously at our meeting Monday night, 10/25. The entire one-page report is included here for your edification.

To the Session of NPC,

The reopening task force's original goal was to recommend protocols for NPC during church activities that would help keep its most vulnerable members as safe as possible in the face of COVID-19.

To that end, the reopening task force recommends that wearing masks be optional for all church activities effective immediately.

Rationale: The task force recognizes that this may have an impact on vulnerable church members. However, whereas when the task force first began to consider protocols, there were no additional defenses against COVID-19, there are proven defenses now available to vulnerable people. It is the feeling of the Reopening Task Force that each church member has ample opportunity to choose their level of risk. At the beginning of this ordeal, there were limited choices. That is no longer true. In the opinion of this task force, it has become a decision for each individual and family to make for themselves, keeping in mind our Christian mandate to love our neighbor.

In the vein of caring for our neighbors in a loving community, the task force also encourages the following:

1. Continue to social distance as a default. We should not assume that church members feel the same way we do about personal interaction. Be respectful of each other's space.
2. If you feel you may be sick, please be respectful of the larger community and stay home.
3. If you are aware that you have been exposed to COVID-19, please follow the CDC guidelines found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

Finally, the Reopening Task Force will remain active. While they do not plan to weigh in on "normal" fluctuations of case counts, hospitalizations, and deaths, they will reconvene should the local situation devolve drastically or in an unforeseen way.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bermingham
Maegan Brass
Dr. Kay Crosby
Neal Davis
Rev. David Jones
Audrey Spragins, Clerk

As always, my door remains open for anyone who would like to discuss this further. The same is true for each member of the Session. I look forward to seeing all of you in person and online soon.

*Peace,
David*