



## **Revised Covid Guidelines from the Diocese of West Virginia**

On May 28 we received a link to a 2 ½ page pastoral letter from Bishop Klusmeyer which is posted on the WV Diocesan website. Due to the length of the letter it is not printed here, but you can read it at [2021-May-CovidGuidelines-revised.pdf \(wvdiocese.org\)](https://www.wvdiocese.org/2021-May-CovidGuidelines-revised.pdf). The letter is followed by these revised guidelines from Bishop Klusmeyer.

### **GATHERING GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON GATHERINGS THE DIOCESE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**26 May 2021**

1. Parishes and Vestries no longer need to seek permission from my office to re-open. Based on the guidelines and protocols below, I trust the clergy and people to make wise, informed and healthy decisions for all.
2. The distribution of Holy Eucharist is to remain in 'One Kind.' The use of the Common Cup is still not permitted. Common bread loaves are also to be avoided. The use of the 'host' is expected.
3. Outdoor services, coffee hours and meetings are always safer than indoors.

#### **OUTDOOR GATHERINGS**

1. The limits to restrictions on the number of people permitted to gather outdoors is lifted.
2. Social distancing is still expected.
3. Masks are expected for those who are either too young to be vaccinated, or for those who have not been vaccinated.
4. Singing is permitted, distanced from one another.
5. Coffee hours are permitted, however the food should be served by a designated host, rather than put out in buffet style.
6. Prayer Books and Hymnals may be used.

#### **INDOOR GATHERINGS**

1. Masks are still expected, given that there will be unvaccinated persons, and others who are too young to be vaccinated, or unable.
2. The numbers of people permitted has been changed. The maximum number of people permitted is the number that can comfortably sit in the space, while remaining socially distant. (6' apart, and every other pew)
3. Singing by the congregation is permitted, while masked!
  - a. Readers who are fully vaccinated and separated from the body of the nave may remove their mask while reading.
  - b. Preachers who are fully vaccinated and are distanced from the parishioners may remove their mask.
  - c. Persons leading the intercessions who are fully vaccinated, and distanced from parishioners, may remove their mask while leading prayers.
4. Choirs may return. However, all must wear masks, and be socially distant.
5. Eucharist is to be administered in one kind only.
6. Still, no physical passing of the Peace.
7. Coffee hour may return, but with masks, and the food must be served by a host. No buffet style receptions at Coffee Hour.

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### **How Does This Affect Us at Christ Church and St. Barnabas Chapel?**

We will be following these guidelines, but we will also be monitoring local conditions so for now you need to

1. Keep making those reservations.
2. Watch you emails or the websites for last minute changes.
3. Remember the old saying, "It is better to be safe than sorry."
4. Keep praying for better times and for healing of those suffering the effects of Covid.