



## **Updated Guidelines for Congregations in The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona**

The following guidelines will go into effect on May 1, 2021, and supersede all prior guidelines.

General principles: gathering for worship, education and mission while wearing masks and keeping distant has kept our congregations safe for over a year. To the best of our knowledge, no one has contracted COVID-19 at an Episcopal Church in Arizona in the past year. With the daily increasing rates of vaccination, we are now ready to expand our worship and ministry.

We encourage all church members and clergy to be vaccinated as soon as possible, and we encourage frequent hand washing and continuing to make hand sanitizer available in congregations. For indoor worship and gatherings, we continue to encourage opening windows and doors to increase air circulation.

### **Mask wearing continues to be MANDATORY at all Episcopal gatherings and worship.**

- Churches may gather for worship, education or other events at up to 50% of the capacity of the room in use, provided that social distancing can be maintained at the increased capacity.
- Congregations may choose to resume receiving communion in both kinds, but only via intinction into a chalice with a small amount of wine, so that fingers cannot come into contact with the wine.
- Congregational and choral singing can resume as approved by clergy and vestry. A reminder that all singers and musicians must be masked.
- Coffee hour and events involving food may take place outdoors only.
- All classes and events may resume so long as they follow the guidelines of mask wearing, social distancing, room capacity, and guidelines about food consumption.
- If someone who attended an event at church is thereafter diagnosed with COVID-19, people who attended the event should be notified that they may have been exposed to the virus. But there is no longer a requirement to pause worship or ministry.