

Zion Lutheran Church, Long Valley, NJ

Relaxing COVID-19 protocols

Congregation Council met on 6/2/2021 and decided to begin relaxing COVID protocols based on CDC guidelines & recommendations from our Reopening Task Group. We will also begin looking at moving outside, use of fans, singing, and returning to a full worship service in the coming weeks. No matter where we worship, we will offer virtual worship each Sunday.

As of today, 6/3:

- Masks will not be required for fully vaccinated people.
- Half of the pews (the lectern side) will return to regular seating and half (the pulpit side) will still have placards for social distancing.
- We will stop asking people to sign up for worship.

As per CDC safety recommendations, people who are **not fully vaccinated** and those who cannot yet be vaccinated (i.e., children) are still asked to socially distance and wear masks. As always, young children are not required to wear masks.

Whatever we do, Council wishes to **care for the whole community** of faith which is made of people who cannot yet get vaccinated (e.g., children under the age of 12), some who choose not to do so, and some for whom the vaccine is less effective (e.g., individuals who are immunocompromised).

In this and with all things, we encourage and pray that **the congregation** refrain from judging one another's decisions, but help to promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill, and as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.