



Guidelines for Gathering Safely for Worship

Creston Church

On June 19, the Creston Church Post COVID-19 Re-Engagement Task Force met. They made the following recommendation for our congregation's implementation:

"Going forward, at the recommendation of Gov. Whitmer, beginning Sunday, June 27, the task force lifted all restrictions at Creston Church. All are asked to respect the comfort and safety of others who may be unvaccinated."

We are very grateful to God for creating an environment of steady COVID-19 decline in both cases and deaths in Michigan!

In some ways, there are some simple adjustments for us to make. For example:

- Beginning Sunday, June 27, **masks will mostly be optional**, based on your preference, comfort, safety, and the consideration of the vulnerability of others. However, **masks continue to be required for all children and adult volunteers while indoors for Children's Worship**, but will not be required while outdoors. This aligns with the current GRPS guidelines for the summer. We are grateful for your willingness to observe this aspect of pandemic safety for our children here at Creston Church!
- There is no limit on the number of people who may gather for worship or other activities.

In other ways, we will need some additional time to work on making arrangements to pivot toward the organization and planning for some of our other ministries and gatherings. So, for the time being:

- Continue to register for Sunday worship and children's worship.
- Areas for parents or guardians to care for their own children will continue to be available at two small tables in the foyer and two air-purified single-family-use rooms in the basement.

Creston Church will continue to do its best to conduct safe practices that work to inhibit the spread of the virus, which still remains in our communities, including open windows and doors to provide a continuous influx of fresh air into the buildings, hand sanitizers at the entrances,

and conduct research about any possible remaining safe practice state guidelines for child care settings.

Please note that this suspension of many restrictions does not mean the pandemic is over and the virus has disappeared – only that the spread of the virus has significantly declined. None of our children under the age of twelve years are able to be vaccinated, not all of us over the age of twelve years have been vaccinated, and some people's health situations do not contribute to the effectiveness or wisdom of receiving the vaccine. Some people right in Kent County (our neighbors listed below) continue to need our prayers as they struggle with and are impacted by COVID-19:

- During the two-week time span of June 8-18, 214 cases of COVID-19 were identified in Kent County.
- Current COVID-19 hospitalizations as of June 21 in Kent County numbered 40 patients, some in ICU.
- Between June 8 and June 21, there have been seven deaths in Kent County due to COVID-19.

So, let's, as Jesus directed, continue to love our neighbors as ourselves, while we also safely enjoy the lifting of many restrictions!