

Reopening Guidelines
Saint John's Episcopal Church, Sharon, PA
Approved by Vestry June 14, 2021

Purpose: The purpose of these guidelines is to provide direction for the use of the facilities and grounds of St. John's Episcopal Church, while safeguarding the physical and spiritual health and welfare of the congregation and greater community.

Principle: St. John's Episcopal Church shall reference and prioritize current CDC and diocesan recommendations, and Department of Health regulations for operational guidance. When in doubt, practices will focus on protecting the most vulnerable among us.

Worship and Rites

- Participants in indoor worship services and rites will agree to the following:
 - Wearing of face coverings if unvaccinated
 - Maintaining social distancing between household groups
- Participants in outdoor services will agree to the following:
 - Maintaining social distancing between household groups
 - Wearing a face covering if unvaccinated
- Virtual services are a safe and acceptable alternative to in-person worship.
- Decisions regarding congregational singing and reading, instrumental music, passing the peace, and administering the eucharist will be at the discretion of the rector in accordance with the purpose of these guidelines.

Programming and Meetings

- St. John's facilities and grounds may be accessible for congregational, social, and community gatherings, meetings, and programming in accordance with current guidance, recommendations, and regulations from CDC, DOH, and dioceses.
 - Outdoor gatherings are preferred, especially when unvaccinated adults and/or children are or expected to be in attendance.
 - The wearing of facial coverings and the maintenance of social distancing will be practiced by participants who are not vaccinated.
 - The rector will consider the degree of community spread, general health and welfare of the congregation, needs of the community when opening St. John's facilities for meeting and gatherings.
 - Entities requesting the use of St. John's facilities will be informed of current guidelines and will agree to follow said guidelines.

Contact Tracing

Persons in attendance at St. John's may be required to register their attendance for the purpose of contact tracing.

General

- Fans, open windows, open doors, and other means to circulate air will be used to ventilate spaces, as appropriate and available.
- Hand hygiene, using soap/water or alcohol-based sanitizer, is encouraged.
- Information and assistance to acquire vaccines will be available to persons by calling 724-977-3256.
- All persons have the right to exercise additional personal mitigation strategies for their own safety, security, and comfort.

Discontinuation of Mitigation

These guidelines shall be discontinued when the threat of illness and death from the pandemic is removed or otherwise determined negligible. Discontinuation of these guidelines shall be approved by the vestry.