



MEMORANDUM

FROM: THE OFFICE OF LITURGY & WORSHIP

TO: PASTORS AND PARISH LEADERS

DATE: 7/29/2021

RE: UPDATED CDC MASK RECOMMENDATIONS

The CDC has revised its guidelines regarding when fully vaccinated people should wear a face covering.¹ While infections with COVID-19 remain rare in those who have been fully vaccinated, preliminary evidence suggests that those fully vaccinated persons who do become infected with the more contagious Delta variant can also spread the virus to others.

Therefore, the CDC now recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a mask in indoor public places, when in areas that have substantial or high levels of community transmission of COVID. At present, Calaveras, San Joaquin, and Tuolumne counties are at the substantial level, while Stanislaus County is at the high level.²

Further, even in areas with low or moderate transmission, fully vaccinated people may want to wear a mask if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease, or if someone in their household is unvaccinated.

California Public Health recommends that fully vaccinated people mask in indoor settings across California, “as an extra precautionary measure for all to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.”³ In light of this new guidance, it is ***strongly recommended*** that those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 wear a mask when participating in indoor worship. Those who are not fully vaccinated are still ***required*** to wear a mask.

By each doing our part to slow the transmission of COVID in our communities, we work to protect the common good. We continue to encourage everyone who is able to get vaccinated against COVID-19, which remains the best way to hinder the transmission of the virus. Parishes should continue to have masks available for those who desire them, as well as providing hand sanitizer.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

² <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

³ <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>