

Gallup Hill Baptist Church - Mask Policy - Update 9-7-2021

The church has spent the last several weeks discussing whether and how to update our COVID policies. These discussions included our Elders, Deacons, and Ministry Leaders. While it is impossible to include everything we discussed here in an email, some of what we talked about included the fact that Ledyard has yet to implement an indoor mask requirement, that COVID is no longer an unknown in terms of its nature and how it is transmitted, that you as an adult are in the best position to decide what is best for you and for your family, that Ledyard Public Schools are requiring masks, and that while children and youth are in our direct care that we feel an extra sense of responsibility to ensure that we take precautions to ensure we don't pass along COVID or any illness that might require a quarantine. While we ultimately reached the following as our answer for now, the discussion was robust and included opinions spread across the spectrum. All that said, here is what we decided:



Worship Service - No changes. We continue to advise that unvaccinated adults and children wear a mask, but ultimately that decision rests with you. This includes all adults, youth, and children in your care. We will continue to social distance in our seating.

Children's Ministries - When children leave the worship service for Children's Church we will require masks. While they are under your direct care in the worship service or around the church, we will leave that decision up to you as to whether you want them to mask. When they are in our care, we want to take precautions to ensure that we get them back to you without undue risk.

4th/5th Grade Group - We will require masks while indoors for 4th/5th grade group for the same reasons that we require them for children.

Youth Ministry - We will require masks while indoors for Youth Ministry. This was a challenging decision as most of our youth group is eligible for the vaccines, however, our youngest group (6th graders) are not. With youth, we did not want to create an environment where some had to mask and others didn't.

Adult Ministries/Meetings - No changes. It remains up to the group and to the individual participants whether or not to mask.

We will continue to monitor how our community is doing in terms of the spread of COVID and further changes may be necessary (hopefully back towards less or no masking!). If in the future, Ledyard implements an indoor mask policy, we will comply (so long as that policy does not unfairly target churches).

As always, the first line of defense is you! If you, or someone in your family, is not feeling well, please worship from home until everyone is feeling better!

If you have any questions, feel free to email PKD at pastorkyle@galluphill.org, or Edler James Anderson at james_e_anderson@sbcglobal.net, or the church at churcoffice@galluphill.org.