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Rev. Angie Colina McNeil, Pastor

Mask Mandate Update

May 15, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of CCUMC,

Your Health Team at church is paying close attention to the requirements from both the CDC, KC Mayor Lucas to protect everyone against COVID-19. This includes the changes that we all heard about on Thursday about mask wearing for people who are fully vaccinated.

The short answer is yes – we at Country Club UMC will continue to require everyone age two and above to wear masks while they are in the church building, whether they are vaccinated or not. And we will continue to keep socially distanced in the pews.

After careful consideration, we decided there are several reasons we must continue to require everyone to wear masks:

- Our children are still not vaccinated, and it's not fair for them to have to wear masks if the adults don't.
- We do not want to check everyone's vaccine card at the door.
- This is a theology of hospitality. It would be socially divisive to say that vaccinated people don't have to wear masks, but unvaccinated people do.
- Letting the vaccinated stop wearing masks would drive some of our people away, for they would not feel safe seeing people without masks and not knowing for sure that those people are indeed vaccinated.
- We are a reconciling congregation, which expands beyond LGBTQ persons. ALL are welcome here, ALL are accepted, ALL are included, and ALL should feel safe.

Please be assured that your Health Team will revisit our policies once everyone can be vaccinated and the vaccination rates have reached a certain point.

But here is some good news to go along with that mask requirement. We now believe that it is safe to sing in church behind those masks. So, remember what John Wesley told us, and follow his instructions: "Sing with good courage. . . [and] lift up your voice with strength."

Sincerely,

the CCUMC Health Team
(Ken Starkey, Amelia Sorensen, Whitney Perkins, Susan Fershee)

Rev. Angie Colina McNeil
Pastor

