

Revised-Reopening the Church Plan

Originally Approved on 06.22.21

First revision on 07.27.21 (new mask updated order)

Second Revision on 08.03.21 (campus wide mask update)

Due to the new Long Beach Health Order dated 07.16.21, while also considering the increased risk of breakthrough cases of vaccinated people occurring within Long Beach and throughout the country, First Congregational Church of Long Beach has decided to update its policy and procedures related to Covid-19 and the “Re-Opening of the Church Plan.” These changes were recommended after much consideration and discussion with the Minsters and the Building, Safety and Design Committee and it’s “Reopening of the Church” sub-committee members.

- Masks are always required and must be worn throughout the church campus, both inside and outside (this includes the courtyard) regardless of the vaccination status of the individuals. This also includes staff when they are in the presence of other people.
- Currently, we recommend board meetings and other meetings take place via Zoom; however, if a board or others choose to meet on campus, they may do so. All participants are required to wear masks regardless of their vaccination status while meeting inside or outside and social distancing is required for all indoor meetings.

Pre-Church Service

- By 9:30 am, all doors to the church should be opened to allow as much ventilation as possible. This includes Cedar and Third Street landing doors and the doors at the west side of the sanctuary. All balcony doors should also be propped open. These doors can be closed after most of the church attendees have left the narthex area after service.
- Diaconate is ensuring that all attendees that enter the church campus are wearing masks and wearing them properly (covering both mouth and nose). Masks are always required and must be worn throughout the church campus, both inside and outside (this includes the courtyard) regardless of the vaccination status of the individuals Diaconate will provide a mask if an attendee does not have one.
- Church members may obtain their name tag from the small plastic cabinet in the Narthex. Diaconate to assist in making sure there is no crowding around the container. Church members are encouraged take their name tags home with them or to store them in their car; however, this is not required to, and church members can continue to use the plastic storage container if they prefer.
- Diaconate Board Members will pass out paper “Order of Worship” to the attendees. There is also online version available and there will be QR codes that you can scan if they want an online version of the “Order of Worship”
- Diaconate Board members will hand out Hearing Devices on a first come, first serve basis. When they are returned, they will be sanitized before storing them in their chargers.
- Our Welcome Ministry Team will be greeting our guests as they enter the church. If this will be your first time visiting the church, please stop by our purple welcome tables to receive your welcome packet, this packet is full of information about our church and all the amazing opportunities on how to get involved and connect with our church community.
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Church Service

Our Church Service is an in-person service that is also live streamed on our Youtube channel, and you can also view it after service.

- We ~~will not be mandating~~ are asking attendees to social distance and seating will now be every other row. Church attendees are asked to sit within their family or social pod and to keep six feet from other attendees. Attendees should ask their pew mates if the distance they are providing between themselves is enough.
- Masks are required during the service and must be fully covering your nose and mouth throughout service except for the following exceptions:
 - Ministers and presenters may remove masks when speaking (presenters and ministers must be fully vaccinated individuals). Ministers and presenters should resume wearing masks after speaking.
 - Soloist may remove masks while singing (singers must be fully vaccinated individuals). Singers should resume wearing masks after singing.
 - Mask can be removed to receive communion, and everyone should resume wearing masks after they are finished with communion.
- Passing of the Peace will be modified to waving and peace signs from your location, we ask attendees to stay in their social bubble and not to travel to other members. ~~We encourage a modified passing of the peace, by showing the peace sign, or elbow bumps.~~
- Church attendees may sing from the pews with their masks on.
- During the offering, ~~if there are enough people in a row, the offering plate will be used. Where there is more spacing in the pews~~ Diaconate members will use the new baskets on the 53"-poles to collect the offering.

- First Sunday communion will use pre-packaged communion elements which the church attendees will pick up in the Narthex upon arrival and church attendees will be asked to dispose of these containers as they leave the Sanctuary in the trash cans located in the Narthex.
 - After the service is completed, the Diaconate board members present will go through the pew rows to retrieve any trash, plus take the Communion utensils from the Chancel Table for cleaning and proper storage.

Post-Church Service

- Masks are always required and must be worn throughout the church campus, both inside and outside (this includes the courtyard) regardless of the vaccination status of the individuals. Coffee will still be served; however, masks should be kept on except when stationary and actively drinking your coffee. ~~Masks may be removed by fully vaccinated people in outside areas.~~
- Diaconate members will collect the Hearing Devices and sanitize them before storing them in their chargers.
- Church members who choose to leave their nametags may put them in the name tag container.

Other Topics/Non-Sunday Service Days

- During non-Sunday Service days (Mon-Sat) vaccinated individuals including employees are not required to wear masks on the church campus. Except during pre-school hours in which masks must be worn in the courtyard, in the restrooms, and anywhere that preschool students are present.
 - Non-vaccinated employees are still required to wear a mask indoors.
 - Any vaccinated employee can choose to wear a mask whenever they so choose.
 - The church must document that their employees are vaccinated if they allow them not to wear a mask indoors. The church can either request proof of vaccination or allow employees to self-report. In either case, it needs to be documented on which mode of verification was used.
- Outside groups (e.g., AA, Scouts, etc.) may start using the church campus. These groups are not required to wear masks on church campus. Except during pre-school hours in which mask must be worn in the courtyard, in the restrooms, and anywhere that preschool students are present. These groups can have their own more restrictive protocols for their groups.