



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

May 27, 2022

Dear all,

Happily, and much to my surprise, the CDC has reclassified much of Rhode Island, including Kent County, in the Medium Community Level. Given this latest designation, the COVID Steering Committee believes it is safe to return to a "Masks Optional" approach for all indoor activities and services.

Additionally, as it seems likely that Kent County's designation will be shifting in the weeks and months to come, we want to spell out the thinking regarding our future masking requirements.

First, this virus, despite its varying impact on individuals, requires us all to be not only respectful of others but also personally flexible. As much as I would love to say, "You'll never be asked to wear masks again," that scenario hardly seems likely. Instead, we should prepare ourselves for a reality where the general church practices will shift according to infection levels.

Second, so that you might be able to anticipate these shifts, please know that our main determining variable is the CDC classification for Kent County. Specifically, at this time, it seems safe to assume the following standards:

1. If the CDC reports Kent County to be in the "High Community Level," we will request that you resume wearing masks.
2. If the CDC reports Kent County to be in the "Medium Community Level," masking will be optional.
3. If the CDC reports Kent County to be in the "Low Community Level," we invite people to mask according to their individual needs.

Finally, although we will continue to use Constant Contact and social media on the occasions our practices change, we also have asked Christina to prepare signage for our many places of entrance, easily swapped out, with both colors and words to indicate the current protocol. We hope that these signs will enhance communication and eliminate surprises.

Again, my friends, I so appreciate both your patience and respect as we navigate these uncertain times. While the work can be hard, I remain ever-grateful that I share it with the Steering Committee and all of you.

May you be well and safe this Memorial Weekend.

Peace,
Tim

The Reverend Timothy T. Rich
Rector