

Hello Church Family,

Many of you are aware that two weeks ago Illinois mandated the use of masks indoors. We want you to know that we have reviewed the governor's executive order and have been monitoring the COVID situation each week in the DuPage and the West Chicago area. What the team has discerned is that we will continue to remain mask optional for several reasons.

First, from a biblical perspective, we believe this is an issue of personal conviction; we do not believe this is a moral issue. We believe that many people have differing perspectives on the use of masks, and we would encourage you to have love, care, and have empathy for ALL perspectives beyond your own. Because of this we encourage you to model to our neighbors how to love, respect, and accept one another when many are using this as a divisive topic. We want to welcome EVERYONE to our church regardless of what your conviction is on masks and encourage you to do the same with one another.

Second, we continue to live within the guidelines that the governor has issued for places of worship. It is important to understand that this is not a political statement, or a decision that is intended to align either with the republican or democratic positions. Within the governor's executive orders there is a clear exemption for places of worship, and our decision keeps us aligned with the guidelines of our governing officials.

Third, before arriving at this decision to remain mask optional, we have been watching key indicators of the virus within the DuPage County health website which shows things like ICU bed and ventilator availability. As it stands now, we have seen an uptick- but it has remained at the level it was in May when we decided to move to mask optional originally. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and communicate any changes.

We ask you to continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's leading and wisdom for our leadership as we seek to honor God and each other in this confusing season.