

Addendum 1 - May 20, 2020

In response to questions and feedback from clergy and lay leaders across the Diocese, the bishops issue the following updated directives and clarifications to “A Time of Challenge and Change: A Plan for Churches during a Pandemic,” issued May 15, 2020. These updated directives are effective immediately and supersede any prior directives issued by the bishops.

STAGE 1

- Masks should be worn during livestream worship and in any prerecorded worship during which members of different households are present in the same space.
- Even though they are wearing masks, readers should neither read from the same location nor use the same microphone.
- The preacher may preach without a mask if it is prerecorded or if the sermon is at the end of a livestream worship service and all but the camera person have left the space. The camera person must wear a mask and be 20 feet or more away from the preacher.
- Communion with masks is still a challenge. In Stage 1, we are asking for suggestion and creative proposals from the wider diocese. One permissible option if communion is celebrated is for those present to move outside after the words of Invitation. Once outside, each participant may carefully, and observing physical distancing, receive the bread from the table, move at least 6 feet away, remove their mask to receive the bread, then place the mask back on. The service should conclude with the Postcommunion Prayer, Blessings and Dismissal, all outdoors.
- Singing and choirs are strictly prohibited during livestreams and recording sessions during which members of different households are present. Prerecorded solos are permitted, and several singers who are members of the same household may also prerecord at home.
- A soloist may be recorded in the church following the same restrictions as the preacher: One other person, either instrumentalist or camera operator may be present if wearing a mask and standing at least 20 feet away from the soloist. Wind instruments are strictly prohibited. If there is an instrumentalist present with the soloist, a camera operator may not be present, and the camera should be unattended during the piece. After the filming is concluded, no one else may enter the recording space for 30 minutes in order to give any droplets time to dissipate.
- Outdoor worship will be possible in Stage 2. To help prepare for this, St. John's, Charlotte, will offer an outdoor service on Pentecost and record the service as a model for other churches. **If all goes well**, outdoor worship for a small gathering may be authorized later in Stage 1.
- Plans for Stage 2 do not have to be submitted for approval, but the congregational mission team is available for consultation and to answer questions.