

Confused about Mask Guidelines?

Guidance for Stage 1B in the Diocese of North Carolina

Wearing masks is the default requirement for all worshipers, service participants, musicians and camera/audio operators during all worship gatherings, indoor or outdoor, whether in person, livestreamed or prerecorded.

A limited number of exceptions apply:

- A preacher preaching indoors during a livestream or prerecorded service may remove the mask to preach **ONLY** at the end of the service **AFTER** everyone except the masked camera operator has left the room. The preacher must maintain 20 feet of distance from the camera operator. Then, **NO ONE** may enter the room for at least 6 HOURS.
- A soloist singing indoors during a livestream or prerecorded service may remove the mask to sing **ONLY** at the end of the service **AFTER** everyone except the masked camera operator **OR** masked musician (**NOT BOTH**) has left the room. The soloist must maintain 20 feet of distance from the camera operator or musician. Then, **NO ONE** may enter the room for at least 6 HOURS.
- A soloist singing outdoors during in-person worship may sing unmasked **ONLY IF** 20 feet of distance separates them from anyone else present during the service.
- During Communion, worshipers may briefly remove their masks **AFTER** they have returned to their seats, consume the host and **IMMEDIATELY** replace their masks.
- The celebrant may briefly remove the mask in order to receive Communion (host and wine permissible) **AFTER** everyone else has received the host and then **IMMEDIATELY** replace the mask.
- Hand sanitization must accompany any removal and replacement of masks.

Individuals or members of the same household recording portions of the service in their own homes do not need to wear masks. Neither do individuals recording a service alone or with members of the same household in the church need to wear masks **IF** no one else enters the room for at least 6 HOURS after recording has finished.

If unmasked individuals record portions of the service following the guidelines outlined above, the following or similar language must be included with the recording when it is distributed, either within the video itself or in the accompanying social media post or webpage:

- Portions of this recording featuring unmasked participants were recorded in their own homes (with only members of their own households present).
- Portions of this recording featuring unmasked participants were recorded in the church following safety guidelines, including others present wearing masks, maintaining physical distancing and allowing adequate time for aerosol particles to disperse before others enter the recording space, outlined by the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.