西雅圖證道堂
Evangelical
Chinese Church
of Seattle

ECC COVID-19 Update
2/18/22

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We can report the good news that we are past the peak of the Omicron COVID-19 surge. As predicted by many experts, it was a steep and high peak with an equally steep drop in cases. Also, the Omicron variant proved to be generally less virulent, with lower risk of hospitalization and death, especially among the fully vaccinated.

We now encourage all people who are fully vaccinated, including booster shots* (please see definition below), to come join us in worship and join in Sunday school, fellowship, and small groups. For those who are not vaccinated or have not yet received a booster shot, you are still welcome to come, but we encourage you to get vaccinated as well as receive a booster shot. Studies have shown that those fully vaccinated with a booster have decreased risk of infection, hospitalization, and death.

Masking is still required at church, and we recommend a surgical mask or higher level rather than a cloth mask. If you are immunocompromised**, you may still want to consider your own individual risk in deciding whether to participate in different activities.

We continue to recommend no food indoors at activities on our ECC campuses. Eating would require removing masks, a vital defense against infection, especially in large groups. We encourage outdoor eating. We will continue to re-evaluate this recommendation over time.

We have also updated our guidelines on what to do if you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have been infected with COVID-19. Please see the update.

We are entering our 3rd year of this pandemic, and we as a society and as a church need to learn how to safely "live" with this virus. The spiritual, emotional, and social health of our church family has suffered from prolonged periods of isolation, and we recognize the importance of meeting together. As it says in Hebrews 10:24-25,

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

We again humbly ask for your prayers – for wisdom in our guidance, protection for the health and safety of our church family, and for the strengthening of our faith and love for the One we serve and for each other.

May God bless you and keep you,
ECC Covid Taskforce and Executive Committee

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*__Fully vaccinated including booster shot__: means receiving a booster shot on top your original 2 shots of Pfizer or Moderna OR receiving a J&J vaccine plus a Pfizer/Moderna vaccine.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html?s_cid=11706:cdc%20covid%20booster:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY22

**__Who is Immunocompromised__?
People are considered to be moderately or severely immunocompromised if they have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

People who are immunocompromised should consider getting a 4th booster 5 months after your 3rd shot.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html