西雅圖證道堂
Evangelical
Chinese Church
of Seattle

ECC COVID-19 Update
July 10, 2021

Dear ECC Family,

As many of you heard, on June 30, Governor Inslee has returned most activities to their usual capacities and operations for Washington State. This good news is based on the strong effectiveness of the vaccines as demonstrated by decreasing caseloads of COVID-19.

For fully vaccinated people, this further reinforces that you can resume activities as normal. Vaccination protects against infection, reduces transmission, and is very effective against serious complications and death from COVID-19. Masking and physical distancing are optional and no longer required for both indoor and outdoor activities. You still, however, need to "respect the rules of the room you're in." (See link at end)

For unvaccinated people, you are still at risk for COVID-19 infection, transmission, and serious complications. Masking is still required for indoor activities and recommended for outdoor public gatherings with close contact with others. Physical distancing is also recommended to protect yourself and others.

There is quite a bit of concern over COVID-19 variants, especially the Delta variant, which has shown to be more transmissible and appears to cause more serious illness in unvaccinated individuals with a surge in hospitalizations and deaths around the world, especially in countries with lower vaccination rates. So far, our current vaccines appear to be effective against the Delta variant. One study showed that the Pfizer vaccine was 88% effective against the Delta variant, compared to 95% effective against the original COVID-19 strain. At this time, it appears that vaccinations prevent serious illness, hospitalizations, and death from the Delta variant, as seen in England, a similar highly-vaccinated country where the Delta variant has become the most common strain of COVID-19. With over 70% of King County residents aged 16 or older fully vaccinated, the overall infection risk, even for the Delta variant of COVID-19, is greatly reduced for worship and other indoor activities.

So what does that mean for ECC?

1. Worship services – We will now conduct worship service in person within the sanctuary for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.
    a. <u>For those vaccinated</u>, masking and physical distancing are no longer required and are <u>*optional*</u> (Reminder – no mask shaming – it's OK to wear a mask!). If you have family members who are unvaccinated or if you have a compromised immune system, you should consider extra precautions, including masking and physical distancing.
    b. <u>For those unvaccinated</u> (or not fully vaccinated), masking is <u>*required*</u>. Even though WA State no longer requires physical distancing, we strongly recommend those not vaccinated to practice physical distancing. This is truly for your own safety as well as for the sake of others around you, especially those who are also not vaccinated.

c. For incompletely vaccinated families (vaccinated adults with unvaccinated children), we recommend continued masking and physical distancing for your family's sake.
d. We will have a section within each sanctuary that allows for physical distancing.
e. We will continue to provide online streaming services for those who cannot attend.
f. Registration and vaccine verification are *no longer required*. We will continue to ask screening questions and take your temperature. Please do not come if you are sick and let us know if you become sick after attending any church activity.
g. Food and drinks are allowed, but we recommend that this takes place outdoors.

We here at ECC deeply care about the physical and spiritual well-being of each and every one of you.

May God continue to bless you and keep you safe in His grip,

The Executive Committee

For Washington state masking guidelines:
https://www.doh.wa.gov/Newsroom/Articles/ID/2847/Dont-forget-your-mask-after-June-30-you-may-still-need-it-even-if-youre-vaccinated

CDC Guidance for Unvaccinated people:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html