

**Faith Community Church**  
**COVID UPDATE: September 27, 2021**

Beloved families with children at Faith Community Church,

After having personal conversations with many of you, reading your responses to the survey, and listening to your concerns and suggestions at the parent/teacher meeting, it is clear that many of you wish for masks to remain optional in our Children's Ministry program, and that many others wish for masks to be required in elementary-school programs. It is our hope that you heard our earnest desire to preserve the fellowship of Christ in our shared community—that oneness in purpose would reign.

**Beginning October 3, we ask that all children, teachers, and helpers wear masks while indoors during elementary Children's Ministry classes during the 9:00 a.m. service and the KidZone program. Masks will not be expected in the Children's Ministry classes in the 11:15 a.m. service. By designating classes in this way, our goal is to enable as many children as possible to experience God's love and learn from His Word. Please recall that many families experience severe disruption from masks and that many families have external factors to balance (such as complicated family health situations and potential school and work disruptions should they be exposed to COVID-19).**

If a child, teacher, or helper who was in a class at FCC tests positive for COVID-19, church leadership will endeavor to contact the families of the other individuals in that class as soon as possible to avoid additional infections and downstream effects. Should this event occur, we will ask parents of children in affected classes:

- To monitor their children's health and to withhold their children from class if they observe COVID-19 symptoms, and
- In a scenario where one or both children were unmasked, to receive a negative COVID test result for the exposed child prior to resuming Children's Ministry activities, or to worship from home the following week.

We will receive each child just as Christ received each of us (Romans 15:7) and provide practical ways for children to pursue peace and build one another up (Romans 14:19). We desire to encourage a spirit of bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:1-3) and loving from a pure heart (1 Peter 1:22) rather than judgment toward either those who wear masks or those who do not (Romans 14:13). As divisive as the topic of masks can be, we see this as a significant opportunity for us at FCC to demonstrate the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge (Ephesians 3:19). As always, we thank you for your patience and for your partnership in the gospel!

Your brothers in Christ,  
Matt Zimmerman, Jon Luman, and David Hansen