

Cherry Hills Family,

We wanted to follow up on the video we sent out on January 14 with a Covid update concerning the ask that masks be worn in our children and student ministry areas.

At the end of that video, we said we would provide an update before Sunday, February 6 to communicate any potential changes. In light of that, because the number of Covid cases has decreased, and is expected to continue to decrease, and the options for individuals and children to get vaccinated if desired have been readily available since the spring and fall, starting Sunday, February 13, we are making masks a matter of personal/parental responsibility in our children and student ministries to be in alignment with the current practice for adults.

The elders and staff recognize that the decision to wear a mask has been a contentious issue for some and like you, we are saddened for how this topic has had the potential to divide. We deeply appreciate your commitment to follow this practice and to bear the burden doing so has imposed. Please know, we have not done things in haste throughout these two years. We gave it time, considered all sides of the issue, followed the data as best we could, and sought wise counsel. We have prayed regularly for unity in this that we could keep our focus on the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are in agreement that the time for this change has come.

Please note, for this Sunday, Feb 6, we are still asking children (age 3 & up) and students to wear masks on Sunday morning, Sunday evening (high school ministry) and Wednesday night (middle school ministry) as many in our family may not receive the communication before Sunday or may desire additional time to adjust.

In addition, as it pertains to adjusting, please remember that no matter where you land on this issue, there are brothers and sisters within this church family that believe the opposite, and this is a good thing. Our differences allow us to seek to understand where each side is coming from as best we can and to show empathy to those that may have a difficult time with this change in policy for any number of reasons. This gives us an opportunity to honor one another through what is hopefully one of our last transitions in this season.

If this is something you would like to discuss with us, we always want to make ourselves available. We will be available after this Sunday's 10:30 AM service in the large classroom next to the kitchen (E201-202). If you are unable to attend, you can also email chc@cherryhillsfamily.org and an Elder will follow up with you.

We will continue to watch the numbers, engage our medical community, and keep you informed if we believe something in the future warrants a change.

Thank you all for your continued support. We are grateful for your unity during this time as we move forward together. We believe the Lord is at work in our church and are grateful for each of you and the significant role you play!

The Elders of Cherry Hills