

River Terrace Church Covid Mitigation Strategies
Updated 10/27/2021

Masks Protocols:

There is no longer a statewide mandate that requires face masks in most indoor locations. RTC is adjusting its mask requirements and recommendations to reflect those of the state of Michigan while still focusing on the safety of its congregation, specifically those ineligible to be vaccinated. The policy will be revisited if MDHHS mandates change, if community spread significantly increases or decreases, or as children 12 and under become vaccinated.

Masks Required:

Masks will be required at all worship services and ministries where children 12 and under are, or may be, present. Since children under 12 are ineligible for the vaccine we want to support our young families well and create a safe and hospitable atmosphere for multi-generational worship and gatherings.

It is important to the spiritual formation of our children that they have opportunities to worship and grow in their faith by being part of a church community and to develop a lifelong commitment to Jesus Christ and His church. Many families have opted to worship outdoors to minimize the risk to their children, and as the weather grows colder we want to continue to create a welcoming atmosphere to those families by requiring masks during any activities where children may be present.

Below is a list of ministries where masks are required. We ask that you wear a mask even if you don't see a child present or in gathering spaces when entering or exiting the building when these activities are going on:

Indoor Sunday Services

Indoor Christmas Eve other special services

Indoor Middle School Sunday School

Indoor Children's Sunday School

Mom to Mom

Nursery

Indoor Greenhouse

Indoor Kingdom Kids

Indoor GEMS

Indoor Cadets

Community Night Dinner (Masks may be removed while seated, eating or drinking at a table)

Community Night Ignite Gathering

Indoor Ignite Sunday Night Youth Group

Masks Recommended:

During activities where children are not involved, or the group is outside, masks are recommended but not required. Upon leaving those rooms & activities, if indoors, when they may encounter other persons & groups, masks are required until outside. This includes all common areas such as hallways, restrooms, and gathering spaces. Individuals are encouraged to keep three feet of social distance when masked and six feet when unmasked.

Funerals and Memorials

RT University

Outdoor Youth Sunday School

Outdoor Children's Sunday School

Outdoor Greenhouse

Outdoor GEMS

Outdoor Cadets

Outdoor Ignite Sunday Night Youth Group

Adult Sunday School

Council Meetings

Committee Meetings

Team Meetings

Friendship Ministries

Quality Living

Timothy Leadership Training

Other RTC ministries & groups not listed

Adult Choir: Due to the unique nature and additional risk associated with singing, additional mitigation strategies are in place.

Non RTC Ministries and Groups:

Masks are optional when in their own rooms. Upon leaving those rooms, when they may encounter other persons & groups, masks are required until outside. This includes all common areas such as hallways, restrooms, and gathering spaces.

Quilting Groups

Christian Service Brigade

BSF (Bible Study Fellowship)

Cru

InterVarsity

Young At Heart Singers

Any other non RTC groups using our facilities

Staff Mask Policy:

Masks are optional for staff during the work week. If children come in for any reason during a work day, staff members will immediately put on a mask.

Social Distancing:

Individuals are encouraged to keep three feet of social distance when masked and six feet when unmasked. At events where food is being served, individuals will be seated 4 at a table if not from the same household.

Close Contact Tracing:

In the case that RTC is informed that an individual tested positive and may have been contagious when in the building, Shalom Sonneveldt, Administrative Coordinator, along with the staff member and any volunteers in charge of the ministry where a positive person was present, with a member of council leadership will work together to identify any close contacts. The close contacts will be notified as soon as possible via phone and all individuals who were in attendance at the event or gathering, and are not designated as close contacts, will be notified via email.

Youth Group Events (Grades 6-12):

Youth group events (both on Wednesday night and Sunday night) will be held outside when possible. When weather requires that youth group events be held indoors, masks will be worn at all times and no food will be served. If any indoor youth events have been planned in advance, Preston Henry, Director of Youth Ministries, will notify families of all mitigation strategies at least 24 hours before the event so parents can determine if they are comfortable with their child attending.

Sunday Morning Children's Ministry (ages 0 up to 5th grade):

Children's ministries (Greenhouse and Sunday School) will be held outside whenever possible. When weather requires that children's ministries be held indoors, masks will be worn at all times, children will be kept socially distant, and no food will be served.

Wednesday Night Children's Ministry and Youth Events:

Wednesday night clubs (GEMS and Cadets) will be held outside whenever possible. When weather requires that children's ministries be held indoors, masks will be worn at all times, children will be kept socially distant, and no food will be served. Nursery and Kingdom Kids are held indoors with masks.

Youth group events will be held outside whenever possible. When weather requires that Wednesday night youth group events be held indoors, masks will be worn at all times and no food will be served.

Nursery Protocol:

Masks are required for all volunteers, attendants and staff working in the nursery. Masks for infants and toddlers ages 0-4 are optional due to the young age.