

Dear River Oaks Family,

Throughout the nearly year and a half of our collective struggle with the COVID19 virus, the people of the River Oaks UMC community have been faithful in seeking to *do no harm* while working for the good of all. Thank you for doing your part to curb the spread of the virus and protect your neighbors, often at the cost of your personal inconvenience.

CDC guidance continues to provide helpful instruction for us on how best to do no harm. On Tuesday, July 27, in light of the emergence and rapid spread of the more contagious Delta variant of the COVID19 virus, the CDC released updated recommendations for persons who are vaccinated. From the CDC website:

Infections happen in only a small proportion of people who are fully vaccinated, even with the Delta variant. However, preliminary evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people who do become infected with the Delta variant can spread the virus to others. To reduce their risk of becoming infected with the Delta variant and potentially spreading it to others: CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people: Wear a mask in public indoor settings if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>)

Tarrant County is currently reporting a *HIGH* level of community transmission.

We have already been asking unvaccinated persons to remain masked while attending indoor events at River Oaks UMC including during worship. We continue to ask this and encourage all, unless discouraged by your doctor, to get vaccinated if you have not already done so.

As we have done, we continue to recommend that you follow CDC guidance. So, we are now *recommending that vaccinated persons also wear masks while attending indoor events at River Oaks UMC* not only for your protection but for the protection of those who remain unvaccinated or are unable to be vaccinated, including all children under 13 years of age and those with preventative medical circumstances.

While we are not now returning to social distancing for fully vaccinated individuals, we will continue to have seating space for those who wish to social distance in addition to being masked.

Your pastors and church leadership will continue to make recommendations that seek to do no harm and promote the wellbeing of all. We continue to be thankful that you join us in this effort as we worship God, build community, and serve Fort Worth and the world together.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastors Jim Love and Chris Mesa