

Reopening Task Force Update

5/11/2021

The Saint Andrews Reopening Task Force met on Monday, May 10. Here are the highlights of the meeting:

- **CLASSROOM CAPACITY INCREASE**

Since the CDC has changed the required social distancing to 3 feet for schools, we should be able to increase the capacity of the classrooms in the Family Life Center that may be reserved for small groups. Revised capacity sizes will soon be forthcoming.

- **MASKS AT OUTDOOR CHOIR PRACTICE**

The choir is now practicing outdoors with masks and social distancing. The RTF decided that until the state mask mandate is lifted, mask-wearing at choir practice will still be in effect, since singing increases the risk of viral transmission.

- **INDOOR WORSHIP MUSIC**

The RTF decided that indoor musical performances are acceptable, with masks and social distancing. We have enough freestanding wireless mics to accommodate up to 5 singers or musicians. Choir Director Brittany Fuentes, AV Director Doug Harwood, and our Pianist Wendy Wooten and our other instrumentalists will work together to plan safe indoor music.

- **RETURNING TO THE SANCTUARY / OLDER BUILDING**

The chief obstacle to returning to the Sanctuary for worship and old classrooms and fellowship hall for other activities is the original building's lack of HVAC capacity to exchange air. All air in the older building is recirculated, unlike the equipment for the Family Life Center, which allows for fresh air to enter and replace used air. The lack of fresh air in an enclosed space has been cited by the CDC and other health researchers as a primary source of viral transmission. Retrofitting the older building to allow for greater air exchange may be prohibitively expensive and will be unnecessary as soon as the mask mandate is lifted and we can gather inside again. There are also AV needs for the Sanctuary which will allow us to stream services from that space, but they are not as significant an issue as the need for fresh air. No timetable was set since we don't know when the mask mandate might be lifted or what other issues may arise. The Reopening Task Force will continue to investigate ways to improve the air quality in the Sanctuary and older building, as well as move forward with AV modifications and deep cleaning in preparation for reentering those spaces.

- **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CHANGES**

Children's ministry during the 1100 worship service will resume ASAP. We are also investigating what is needed to resume nursery care on Sunday morning.

Please continue to pray for the Reopening Task Force as they seek to keep ALL of us at Saint Andrews safe from COVID-19.