



## FLORIS • RESTORATION

Herndon • Reston • Loudoun

February 28, 2022

Dear Floris/Restoration Congregation and Staff,

Last Friday, February 25, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated health guidance that included new metrics for determining COVID-19 community levels. Based on this new guidance, both Fairfax County's and Loudoun County's current COVID-19 community level is low.

Rev. Tom Berlin did an excellent job during yesterday morning's worship services explaining that change is likely coming soon based on the updated CDC guidance and multiple favorable metrics and trends.

Based on these new metrics and CDC guidance, Floris/Restoration will allow everyone – staff, visitors, and congregation members - to make a choice whether or not they will wear a mask starting Tuesday, March 1.

Today will be a day to prepare for this transition. Staff will have the day to get answers to questions and prepare for the change. We will share additional information later this week that will help us all prepare.

The decision to wear a mask or not is a personal one for our staff and families, based on many factors. Our Floris/Restoration community has demonstrated our commitment to "living into our values," and we will see our values in action as we treat each other with respect and understanding during this transition.

Staff, and congregation, please collaborate to identify any potential issues that require special attention and raise these to our Executive Director. Families, please talk with your children about these upcoming changes so they are prepared for this transition and understand your expectations for them at church activities.

We are encouraged by the continued decline in COVID-19 cases in our community. However, we are also committed to keeping our church staff, congregation, and community safe for all to worship, learn, and work in person. Please continue to do your part to maintain a healthy environment by monitoring for illness and staying home when sick.

Masking requirements will remain in place after March 1 for our nursery workers, since they are caring for a population that hasn't yet been able to receive a vaccine. I will work with Bill Gray and Debbie Lawler regarding any special considerations we should implement for the nursery, preschool, and/or children under age 5. Masking requirements for our Preschool will be evaluated and a decision will be made early this week, in collaboration with our Preschool Director.

We will communicate important updates as we learn them via our Pastors' weekly eNotes, during worship services, and by posting on our website.

Peace and Grace,

W. Allan Ballenger, Jr.

Executive Director

[aballenger@florisumc.org](mailto:aballenger@florisumc.org)

(703) 793-0026 x115