



August 6, 2021

Dear Friends:

Unfortunately, these COVID updates don't end!

This time I write to let you know that St. Mark's Church and School is again requiring that all persons on campus – regardless of vaccination status – wear a mask when indoors. All worship services will continue in person, but we will again require that masks be worn.

As you know, the Delta variant is highly transmissible and Palm Beach County is experiencing high case transmission rates. The St. Mark's COVID task force that has so capably guided our protocols for the church and school -- along with your school administrators, clergy, school advisory board and vestry -- all concur that this mask mandate is necessary to protect those in our community unable to receive a vaccination, which includes most of our children.

As a faith community that is guided by our baptismal covenant, we promise over and over again to respect the dignity of every human being and to love our neighbors as ourselves. As followers of Jesus Christ, we seek to serve others before serving ourselves. Wearing a mask during a pandemic is one small way we show our compassion for those who are most vulnerable to the effects of the virus and to those who care for them in hospitals once again overwhelmed with COVID patients.

Obviously, we are all disappointed that this highly transmissible variant has disrupted our return to a more normal Fall at St. Mark's. We are hopeful, however, that this wave of infection will ebb quickly, and we can move forward without masks and other pandemic protocols. In the meantime, please consult with your health-care provider to determine your eligibility for a vaccine. The best way to defeat the virus is to vaccinate as many of us as possible. God – through the gift of education and science – is providing our way out of this mess. Please take God's lead and get vaccinated.

See you Sunday!

Handwritten signature of James B. Cook in blue ink.

The Rev. James B. Cook  
Rector

Handwritten signature of Deborah A. Strainge in blue ink.

Deborah A. Strainge  
Head of School

Handwritten signature of Neil Stevenson in blue ink.

Neil Stevenson  
Sr. Warden

Handwritten signature of Cathy Harrington in blue ink.

Cathy Harrington  
Jr. Warden

P.S. Please pray for those physicians, nurses and staff in local hospitals who are again facing immense pressure to care for the sick. And, pray for members of our St. Mark's community who are battling COVID, including children and those who are currently hospitalized.

A BEACON OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LIGHT.

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