

**From:** Jodie Boyer Hatlem <jo@shalomcc.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 10:48 AM  
**To:** Shalom CC  
**Subject:** Update on Masking

Dear Shalom:

Between March 2020 and March 2022, Shalom Community Church (with a brief hiatus over Advent 2021) worshipped on Zoom. In March of 2022, we returned to in-person worship but with a policy that all worshippers would wear k95 style masks. We have kept our masking policy for over a year. We realize that we have continued to mask much longer than many other institutions, churches, businesses, and hospitals. We have done so because we strive at Shalom to listen carefully and deliberately to everyone.

This past Sunday our Coordinating Council voted to affirm the recommendation of CLC **to make masking optional, effective immediately**. This decision was undertaken after a discernment process that included a survey of the entire congregation, a discussion at the May 7th Congregational meeting, and one-on-one conversations with individuals and families expressing reservations about removing our masking mandate.

We continue to be committed to protecting those who are most vulnerable in our community. We ask that everyone be assiduous about not attending church if you are sick. Also, we will continue to monitor local conditions and follow public health guidance from Washtenaw County. Finally, we will continue to have k95 masks available for anyone who would like one.

Feel free to contact our Pastors (Jo and Trevor) or members of CLC if you have concerns or questions.

The Congregational Life Committee (CLC) and Pastors

Priscilla Chamberlain, Susan Hunsberger, Scott Hein, Jo Hatlem, and Trevor Bechtel