



THE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH[®]
IN MISSISSIPPI

THE RT. REV. BRIAN R. SEAGE
Bishop

January 22, 2021

Dear Friends,

I am lifting, effective immediately, the suspension of in-person worship and meetings. While the daily positivity rate and new COVID-19 cases remains serious and concerning, you have my permission to offer small in-person services of worship. Stress and strain on our health care system and workers remains critical; please include everyone involved in health care, and their families, in your prayers. After consulting with health care professionals and authorities I offer the following reminders, recommendations, and directions for all gatherings in the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi.

Reminders and recommendations:

- In person gatherings are intrinsically risky – virtual and outdoor services are safest
- All persons at high risk for severe cases of COVID should not attend in-person services:
High risk conditions are defined on this site: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

Directions

- Any indoor worship services should not exceed 25% of the maximum capacity of your worship space
- Those in attendance must socially distance,
- Masks are mandatory at all times
- Singing is limited only to a soloist, a duet or a quartet
- Keep services as short as possible
- Maintain a means of contact tracing

Please know that the need to suspend services again remains a possibility. Physicians, epidemiologists, virologists, and public health experts are particularly concerned about the new COVID variant from the United Kingdom that is currently infecting our country.

Thank you for the creative and patient ways you are living into your faith. I am convinced that we are learning new ways to be the church. New ways that will define our ministry and mission for years to come. Further, I remain convinced that nothing, “will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Peace be with you,

+Brian

The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage

BRS:pj

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