

# Re-evaluating our Safety Protocols

A little more than a year ago, we wrestled with the reality of a new virus, closing businesses and schools, sheltering-in-place, and all of the other changes that the Coronavirus brought. At Calvary, we began to work and minister and worship and connect almost exclusively online while we tried to accomplish our mission and respond to this pandemic at the same time. In the middle of last year, we reopened for worship with a number of safety protocols in place. All during this time, we continued to see God move and work among us and accomplish His mission in our community through Calvary Church.

After observing the data and trends around the Coronavirus, we have decided to relax or make optional our safety protocols the weekend of May 29 & 30. Here are some of the recent trends we have seen indicating how the situation has changed (as of the beginning of May):

- We have seen much lower case rates, hospitalization rates, and death rates compared to a few months ago.
- About 37% of Missouri adults have been fully vaccinated and almost half of Missouri adults have received at least one dose of the vaccine. More than half of adults in St. Charles County have begun the vaccination process.
- Over 65% of Missourians age 65 and older have been fully vaccinated and over 75% have received at least one dose of the vaccine. This group comprised a very large proportion of hospitalizations and deaths from COVID - and is now significantly protected.
- An estimated 40% of Missouri adults have contracted the virus and have some significant level of immunity that is likely long-lasting.
- These groups overlap, of course, but we believe there is a significant level of community immunity - many public health experts agree - and we think that explains the lower case rates and prevents a return to earlier levels.

We recognize that many people will not feel safe under these relaxed protocols. A survey we sent out recently indicated that about 80% are ready to move forward, 20% are not, and we want to foster a welcoming environment for those who wish to wear masks and remain socially distant. Our online ministries will remain available for those who aren't ready to come back under the relaxed safety protocols or for those who are just unable to attend for other reasons. We hope to continue to minister to everyone and to include everyone as we move the mission of Calvary forward, whether online or in-person.

We are so grateful for all of you walking together with us - worshiping, serving, and growing in this challenging time. If you have any feedback or questions you can send them to [questions@calvary.church](mailto:questions@calvary.church)