



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Protocols for Possible COVID Exposure at St. Paul's

Updated 9/24/21

St. Paul's leadership is dedicated to the safety of our worshipping community and to keeping you informed. Even though the Vestry, Staff, and Clergy are taking precautions to keep everyone safe at St. Paul's (click here for safety measures), we must prepare for the possibility that COVID will appear in our midst. Our thanks to all of you who, through **vaccination, masking, distancing, and careful monitoring of symptoms**, are helping to keep St. Paul's a COVID-Free zone.

First, we ask that anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 after attending Church, to please call the office and let us know. This is a vital first step in our process to keep everyone safe.

If a positive test result is reported by someone who **was present at Sunday morning services, nursery, meditation, social hour, or other events at St. Paul's**, and if the timing is such that the St. Paul's community is affected, we will adhere to the following safety protocol:

- The name of the person will be kept confidential.
- The person will have received a positive result from an approved test.
- St. Paul's will encourage the person who tested positive to speak with the Health Department and to follow the CDC guidance regarding quarantine and self-care.
- We will be in conversation with the person to identify those at St. Paul's with whom they have been in close contact, and make every effort to be in touch with those persons. (note: "close contact" is defined as being within six feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period)
- An email will be sent to the St. Paul's community, informing them of an exposure. The email will have "St. Paul's Safety" in the subject line. If known, the email will contain the date and time of the potential exposure and include [links to CDC guidelines](#). The email will outline the steps already taken and suggest as a precaution that they monitor themselves for symptoms.
- We will extend our prayers to the person, and supply them with meals and other support as wanted and needed.
- The property will be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly.
- We will consider carefully the need for a temporary suspension of in-person worship, or other activities, and inform them of that decision.
- We will contact our Bishop's office so that they may track the impact of COVID in our diocese.

Note: If exposure happens in smaller settings (e.g. office or small group contexts), similar measures will be taken to inform those immediately involved.