



June 12, 2021

Dear 3Crosses Family,

As we look forward to the remaining portion of 2021, we're hopeful and are praising God as we see COVID case rates drop across the country and specifically in Alameda County. As we have done our best to respect our governing authorities and to help our church family feel safe and cared for, in this new reopening phase that's coming on June 15th we will continue in this manner.

A message from [Alameda County](#) states, *"California plans to fully reopen the economy on June 15th. Everyday life will feel a lot like before covid-19. Restaurants, shopping malls, movie theaters, and most everyday places will be open as normal with no capacity limits or social distancing required. Of course, anyone can wear a mask anytime they'd like, especially around children and others who are vulnerable or not yet eligible for vaccination."*

As we have done throughout this season, we have thought through and prayed through our next steps as a church and we have decided that **beginning on Tuesday, June 15th facial coverings will be optional** for all 3Crosses staff and for the guests of 3Crosses and Cafe 4 (*Cafe 4's staff members will continue to follow industry standard guidelines and 3C Kids & Students Middle & High School will follow school safety requirements*).

It has been our intention to stay in step with not only how we believe God is leading us through prayer and fasting, but also with our community, other local churches, and with our government leaders on this matter of health and safety for our congregation and staff. We respect and honor your right to continue to wear a facial covering and we encourage you to do so especially if you are in or around an at-risk population, are unvaccinated, or do not feel comfortable *not* wearing a facial covering in public places.

We understand that there will be many people who will choose to continue to wear facial coverings and we want you to know that we support you in your decision to do so. We pray and ask that, though our opinions may vary, we all remain nonjudgmental (James 4:11), unified in Christ (John 17:21), and loving towards each other (1Cor 13:4-7). 3Crosses is a place where we can come as we are, belong, know that we are loved and needed, and where we are transformed by the Holy Spirit to bring glory to God alone. It's a place where we are reminded that our purpose is to **Reveal God and Restore Hope** to our community.

Please continue to be in prayer for our church leadership and for our community as we know that this season is not completely over. Please continue to pray for us as we rebuild our volunteer communities, welcome groups back on campus, and rebuild church ministries over this coming year.

Praying for you all,  
Danny Strange, Senior Pastor

*For additional details please read the FAQs below.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Why wait until June 15th?**

As we have watched COVID infection rates decrease, our government health officials have decided that on June 15th it will be safe enough to no longer follow the restrictions that were once required. We will wait until June 15th to walk forward with the recommendations from the CDC and Alameda County to stay in step with our community and other local churches who are following health recommendations. We will still have hand sanitizer stations available in our lobby and we will continue to clean our facility with diligence and care.

### **What about those who are not fully vaccinated?**

The CDC and expected CA guidance will *recommend* that those who are not fully vaccinated continue to wear facial coverings and physically distance both indoors and outdoors with a few exceptions. While we continue to follow their guidance and recommendations, we DO NOT intend to require this at 3Crosses. Our Public Health Departments are also not requiring this (*only recommending*) and we will do the same. We don't think that it's wise, practical or legal to attempt to police whether or not people are vaccinated, and we don't want to cause any unnecessary division in the church. At 3Crosses we are guided by a Biblical principle that guides our decisions on many occasions: "*maintaining the unity of the body in the bond of peace*" (Ephesians 4:1-3). Therefore, we will trust each household to make an informed *personal* decision regarding their personal use of facial coverings. CDC guidance can be found at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

### **How does this 'facial coverings optional' decision apply to 3C Kids and 3C Students?**

For our 3C Kids Ministry, we are sharing our facility with Happiness Hill Preschool and therefore we will be staying in step with local schools' requirements. We will continue with increased cleaning measures to ensure our facility is a safe place for our children. For our Middle School and High School groups we will also stay in step with local school requirements that are deemed safe for this age group. This will include all Kids & Students staff and volunteers as well.

### **What about *other* volunteers and Community Group leaders?**

We are asking that all volunteers make the same informed decision as everyone else. We are not requiring that they be vaccinated, show proof of vaccination, or wear facial coverings. Those who are vaccinated are protected as much as possible, and those who are not vaccinated are making an informed personal choice.

*For additional questions please reach out to our main office at [connect@3crosses.org](mailto:connect@3crosses.org).*