

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HEALTH MINISTRY COVID RECOMMENDATIONS

(Based on CDC Guidelines 2/25/2022)

The risk of medically significant disease, hospitalizations and death from COVID disease has been greatly reduced for most people due to high levels of vaccination and immunity from infection. On February 25, 2022, the CDC revised the metrics to be used to determine community transmission rates for COVID-19. The primary indicator is the number of new cases per 100,000 population with additional consideration to the number of new COVID hospitalizations. With that information the COVID-19 community level is rated low, medium or high. SEE BELOW FROM CDC WEBSITE:

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community

New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

To find out the COVID-19 community level:

- First determine whether a county, state, or territory has fewer than 200 new cases per 100,000 people in the past 7 days or 200 new cases or more per 100,000 people in the past 7 days.
- Then, determine the level (low, medium, or high) for the new admissions and inpatient beds and indicators using the scale for the area's number for new cases.
- The COVID-19 Community Level is based on the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics.
- Check your county's [COVID-19 Community Level](#).

COVID-19 Community Level and COVID-19 Prevention Activity

¹ At all levels, people can wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

LOW LEVEL:

- * Stay up-to-date with vaccinations and boosters.
- * If symptoms, get tested. Isolate and quarantine according to CDC guidelines.
- * If high risk, talk to physician about testing, risk and possible treatment.

MEDIUM LEVEL:

- * Stay current with vaccines and boosters.
- * If symptoms or exposure, get tested. Isolate and quarantine per guidelines.
- * Recommend wearing a mask indoors, when in contact with someone at high risk for severe disease.
- * If high risk, talk to physician about risk, masking, testing and possible treatment.

HIGH LEVEL:

- * Wear a well-fitting mask when indoors in public places, regardless of vaccination status.
- * Stay current with vaccines and boosters.
- * Follow CDC guidelines for testing, isolation and quarantine.
- * If high risk, talk to physician about risk, masking, testing and possible treatment. Consider wearing high quality mask(N95). Consider avoiding nonessential indoor activities where exposure is likely.

Health Ministry Recommendation to Session:

We recommend that a designated space in the Sanctuary be provided to allow immunocompromised congregants to be safer during worship. Many of our elderly have immunocompromised conditions including but not limited to cancer, diabetes, cardiopulmonary issues, organ transplantation and autoimmune status. Such safety, with the expectation of *masking and social distancing*, may allay the fears of those who require minimal contact with potential viral exposure.

Suggestions to provide this space could include:

- * James Chapel area with its easy access on floor level and side entrance.
- * cordoning off this area with marked proper distancing
- * signage to make people aware of this area
- * communications through pulpit announcements, ushers and email blasts.