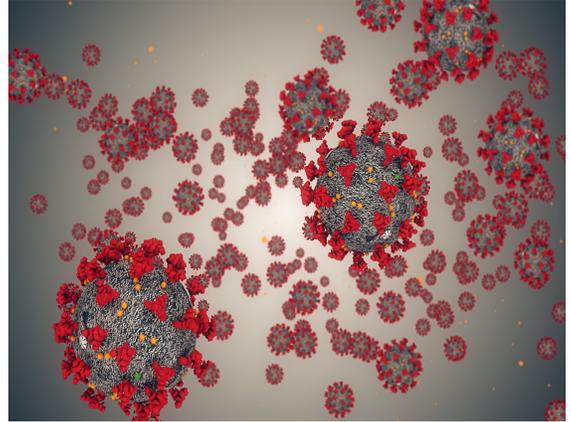


For Your Safety

SCC COVID-19 Update

September 29, 2021
By Roger R. Wade

The conference's Emergency Response Team (**ERT**) continues to monitor the impact of COVID-19 virus and the variants effecting our communities. At a recent Executive Committee meeting, it was reported that the United States vaccination rate has declined in comparison to other countries. This factor has prompted additional calls for caution, mask wearing, physical distancing, and washing of hands.



Several COVID-19 cases have been reported in our churches this year. Some churches have closed temporarily because of numbers in their district. Churches are taking all the precautions to protect their member with all the protocols recommended by the ERT for operation of worship services.

The ERT is not recommending a return to virtual worship only for all churches currently. Considering the highly contagious Delta variant however, churches see wisdom in temporarily closing on their own. At the very least, the ERT is recommending a return to shorter worship services, along with continuing the mitigating practices:

- Face masks for everyone, including the vaccinated
- Social distancing of 6-feet – including hugs and “holy kisses”
- Frequent hand washing
- Clean and disinfect common areas, especially bathrooms
- Increase ventilation in sanctuary and other spaces used for meeting
- Pray for divine protection over God’s people during this pandemic

When a word of a positive test of someone who attended a service is received the ERT asked the following procedure to be followed:

- Notify all church members and any others who attended at the time. Members have a right to know they may have been exposed.
- Advise members to monitor themselves for 14-days and get tested.
- Close down in-person worship for at least 10-days while the church building is re-cleaned and disinfected.
- Review safety protocols and tighten up in areas that need attention.

For more information about your church’s status, contact your pastor.

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