

Central Missouri Mission Center Guidelines– Updated March 1, 2022

The mission center leadership is concerned with the balance between our worship and fellowship needs and upholding our call to care for each other, especially the vulnerable in our congregations and communities. As followers of Christ, we are called to consider the welfare of all as we make decisions in our personal lives and in our life together as a worshipping community. The trend in new cases is encouraging as it generally has decreased lately. Adjustments have been made to these guidelines and a section on the new CDC guidelines has been added to this document.

| Red Level | |
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| Masks | Masks are required at all times while in the building (over age 2). Masks should cover nose and mouth. Those participating in the service have option to remove mask while speaking. Limit number of people speaking without masks in the same location. |
| Physical Distancing | Family groups should be physically distanced from each other while seated. |
| Singing | The congregation may sing a couple of hymns while masked unless case numbers go extremely high when not singing or only singing last hymn is recommended. |
| Time in Building | If everyone is following the guidelines for masks carefully, congregations may choose to hold church school classes. Consider holding classes in a location other than the sanctuary to limit time in same location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move classes from small classrooms to larger areas such as fellowship halls as needed • Remember to consider adequate ventilation in all areas used |
| Cleaning | If building is only used on Sundays, normal cleaning should be adequate. Frequently sanitize commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs. |
| Attendance List | A record of those attending will be maintained to be used to contact attendees if someone tests positive who was in attendance. |
| Food | No food or drink (other than bottled water) is to be served for consumption in the building, |
| Other | Bulletins are fine. Hymnals are fine if only used by one person each Sunday. Do not pass offering trays or other items between people. |

| Orange Level | |
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| Masks | Masks should be worn (over age 2) when not able to physically distance and when singing. Masks should be worn when entering building until seated and again when leaving seat until exit building. Those participating in the service may remove mask while speaking. |
| Physical Distancing | Family groups should be physically distanced from each other while seated. |
| Singing | The congregation may sing all hymns while masked. Soloists (duets if both members of same family) allowed if adequately distanced from congregation (or behind plexiglass) |
| Time in Building | Congregations may choose to hold church school classes. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider holding classes in a location other than the sanctuary to limit time in same location • Move classes from small classrooms to larger areas such as fellowship halls as needed • Remember to consider adequate ventilation in all areas used <p>Additional activities through the week may be held.</p> |
| Cleaning | If building is only used on Sundays, normal cleaning should be adequate. Frequently sanitize commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs. |
| Attendance List | A record of those attending will be maintained to be used to contact attendees if someone tests positive who was in attendance. |
| Food | Eating in outdoor settings is allowed. Food may be served inside and then taken outside to eat, if desired. Designated servers should be masked and gloved and are the only ones to touch serving utensils. Eat in family groups. |
| Other | Bulletins are fine. Hymnals are fine if only used by one person each Sunday. Do not pass offering trays or other items between people. |

| Yellow Level | |
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| Masks* | Masks are recommended but depending on the comfort level of the congregation and the willingness to respect each other's level of comfort are not required. |
| Physical Distancing | Family groups should be physically distanced from each other while seated. |
| Singing | Masking during the singing of hymns is still encouraged. Soloists (duets if both members of same family) allowed if adequately distanced from congregation. If non-related individuals are singing together, should be physically distanced from each other as well as the congregation. |
| Time in Building | No limit on time in building as long as safety protocol are followed. |
| Cleaning | If building is only used on Sundays, no extra sanitation is necessary. If building is used more than once a week, sanitizing should be done following each activity. Frequent sanitizing of commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs is encouraged. |
| Attendance List | A record of those attending will be maintained to be used to contact attendees if someone tests positive who was in attendance. |
| Food | Designated servers should be masked and gloved and are the only ones to touch serving utensils. For indoor eating, tables should be set up at least 12 feet apart and family groups should eat together. Total occupancy of indoor eating spaces should be maintained at less than 25% of the capacity of the room. Eating outdoors is still safer and preferred. |
| Other | Use of bulletins and hymnals is fine. May choose to pass offering trays or similar items. |

| Green Level | |
|---------------------|--|
| Masks* | Masks optional |
| Physical Distancing | Still recommended until consistently no new cases in community |
| Singing | Normal congregational singing and special music |
| Time in Building | Not limited |
| Cleaning | Frequent sanitizing of commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs is encouraged (always a good practice). |
| Attendance List | Still recommended |
| Food | Food may be served |

If someone tests positive who attended a recent church service or activity –

- Notify everyone who attended the service or activity and let them know that someone tested positive (without giving the identity of the person unless you have their permission)
 - Encourage those exposed to follow current CDC guidelines for quarantine and testing.
- Cancel in-person worship services and activities for the next week to make sure no one else has symptoms or tests positive. If others have symptoms or test positive, cancel in-person worship an additional week.
- Notify the mission center president

*As we get to a level where masks are optional in some locations, please stress the necessity to be respectful of others comfort levels. No one should be questioned or made uncomfortable about their decision to continue to wear a mask or their choice not to wear a mask. Those who choose not to mask should be very respectful of others, masked or not masked, who may want to maintain some distance from those not wearing masks. Encourage all to respect personal space. Please promote comments and actions that are respectful of each one and that seek to uphold the welfare of all, especially the most vulnerable among us.

New CDC Guidelines on Masking Indoors

In addition to watching <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/> and going by their levels (red, orange, yellow, green) and the updated guidelines from the mission center, congregations may also look at the new CDC guidelines concerning masking indoors at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html> (orange – high, yellow – medium, green – low) that are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. On the CDC page link, there is Covid-19 County Check that will show which of the following three categories your county currently is in. Remember that this may change from time to time so be sure to check the site at least weekly. While the CDC removed mask requirements in many public settings, individuals and groups are still encouraged to make decisions according to risk levels, personal health circumstances, and protecting the most vulnerable. Protecting the most vulnerable and upholding the well-being of the whole community continue to be key guiding principles in decision making for individuals, congregations, and groups. Also remember that your decision about masking for your congregation will depend on the comfort level of your members. Note that all of the categories refer to people being up to date with vaccines so that should also figure into your decision. Please look at all of the information about local conditions that is available and make decisions for your congregation thoughtfully and carefully.

| Low | Medium | High |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a mask indoors in public• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms• Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness |

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.