

Plan to Address COVID-19 at MPC

Updated August 2022

This Plan is for addressing COVID-19 at the Morrisville Presbyterian Church (MPC) in order to minimize the health risk to our entire congregation. This Plan will be updated as necessary to address continued use of the buildings and grounds.

This plan is based on current information available on COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Decisions on the use of the church buildings grounds will be made by the Session and based on input from the church's COVID-19 Task Force.

This plan is a living document, i.e., it will be revised as necessary to incorporate new scientific information on the spread and effects of COVID-19, the results of the success of vaccinating the public, and any other reasons deemed by the Session.

Fundamentals of the Plan

This plan is the result of the Session balancing the safety of our church family and visitors from COVID-19 with the desire by members in the congregation to maintain worship and activities within the church facilities.

Guiding Principles

COVID-19 and its variants will likely be with us for a long time, perhaps, years.

- We need to care for the least of us.
- The church will not discriminate between those who are and who are not vaccinated.
- The church is committed to providing the safest possible setting with the understanding that we cannot completely protect those both vaccinated and unvaccinated from contracting COVID.
- The church will let responsible adults self-regulate as much as possible.

Situation Appraisal – August 2022

The CDC utilizes a community risk code level (RED/HIGH, YELLOW/MEDIUM, GREEN/LOW) based on hospitalization admission rates and hospital bed occupancy rates.

The CDC has currently classified Bucks County at a YELLOW/MEDIUM community risk level and Mercer County at a RED/HIGH level. Per the CDC guidance, wearing of masks indoors should be optional for YELLOW/MEDIUM level.

The Task Force will continue to monitor CDC Guidance and community risk levels and keep the Session informed monthly.

Definitions

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- Pandemic – An infectious disease that is wide-spread over a large region or the world.
- Endemic – A disease regularly found in a region or the world.
- Vaccinated – You are considered vaccinated when you have the requisite number of vaccination shots for the type of vaccine you have received.

Steps to Mitigate COVID-19 Transmission

General

- Masks will be worn by all who take care of and closely talk to children under 5 years old (e.g., teachers and monitors, pastors during Children's Sermon).
- Masks will be available upon entering the sanctuary or hallways of MPC when church functions will be in session.
- Passing of the peace will be done in sign language.
- Fans and air filtration units will be in operation when the sanctuary is being used, but windows need not be cracked open when weather doesn't permit.
- Anyone who wears a mask should not be made uncomfortable by others for wearing a mask, or vice versa.
- Groups meeting in the church can make their own determination whether people in the group wear masks.
- Food consumption indoors is permitted.

Sunday School

- All teachers must be vaccinated.

Weekday Nursery School and Head Start

- These two organizations may utilize the church's buildings under the following conditions:
 - Each has a plan consistent with Pennsylvania and CDC recommendations for schools to reopen.
 - Each plan is consistent with MPC's plan.
 - Each indemnifies MPC for any injury and costs associated with COVID-19 due to their operation.

Additional Plan Information

Criteria for Changing Plan

- If at any time during the implementation of this plan, the guidance from federal and state health experts changes so that greater protection is recommended because of a resurgence of COVID-19, the Session shall change this plan to add more protective steps.

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- The Session can make changes to this plan at any time with a vote by the majority of Elders.

Criteria for Ending Plan

- This can be achieved when federal, state, and county health experts provide statements that COVID-19 pandemic is over because COVID has become endemic.
- Session approval is necessary to end this plan.
- Criteria used to make this approval will not be less stringent and may be more stringent than guidance from federal and state health experts.

Responsibilities

Session

- To create, approve, and modify, as appropriate, this plan.
- To ensure pastoral staff implement and adhere to this plan.

COVID-19 Task Force

- To provide the Session with advice on addressing COVID-19 at MPC.
- To stay abreast of the science and CDC recommendations associated with COVID-19 and make appropriate changes to this plan.
- To stay abreast of the local area metrics and use them in its decision-making.
- To make minor changes to this Plan in order to keep it as a living-document.
- To ask Session to approve any major change in this Plan.

Resource Reference

CDC COVID-19 Community Levels <https://www.covid.cdc.gov>

- Approved by Session July 13, 2020
- Minor revisions: July 14, 2020
- Minor revisions: July 29, 2020
- Minor revisions: August 27, 2020
- Major revision approved by Session September 9, 2020
- Major revision October 8, 2020
- Major revision March 14, 2021
- Major revision approved by Session June 28, 2021
- Minor revisions July 2, 2021
- Minor revisions August 21, 2021
- Major revision February 15, 2022
- Major changes approved by Session March 2022
- Minor revisions August 18, 2022