



August 4, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ:

As the Delta variant continues to spread throughout the nation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued new recommendations that ***all persons, including those who are fully vaccinated, wear a mask covering both nose and mouth while indoors in public if they are in areas of substantial or high transmission.***

[Click here to see the full recommendation.](#)

[And click here to track the spread of the virus in your county.](#) Note that most counties in our presbytery are in areas of substantial or high transmission.

In light of these developments, ***the Presbytery Council now recommends that congregations follow the guidelines of the CDC and require the proper use of face masks for all those attending indoor worship or other indoor church events.*** Doing so demonstrates a concern for the entire community, especially those who are not yet vaccinated (including young children) and those who are at higher levels of vulnerability. This is, of course, a recommendation and not a requirement; each session is free to make decisions that best serve its sense of mission to the community and congregation. We do, however, urge each session to consider the recommendation prayerfully and thoughtfully.

The Council also encourages pastors and sessions to encourage church members who are not yet fully vaccinated to consider getting the vaccine. This is the most effective way to prevent future variants from developing.

As of today, we are still planning to hold a hybrid meeting of the Presbytery Assembly August 21, providing an option to meet in-person or online. Face masks will be required, and we strongly recommend that only those who are fully vaccinated choose to attend in person.

We are at a pivotal time for the health and safety of our congregations, communities, nation, and world. Please prayerfully consider what you can do and say to make a positive difference.

With gratitude for your leadership and on behalf of the Presbytery Council —
Peace and all good,

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