

Friday, March 11, 2022

Dear Cross of Glory Community,

On February 25th, the CDC released updated guidelines regarding mask wearing and physical distancing. They also launched a new online tool displaying their rating of each community's COVID-19 risk by county. Ratings are either "Low," "Medium," or "High." These levels are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Ratings can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>.

After prayerful discernment, the COG Covid Task Force has decided to follow this rating by the CDC to determine our masking and social distancing guidelines. ***We have created a chart and further information as an attachment to this letter that shows our guidelines under each risk rating.***

We are happy to report that the current risk level for Hennepin County is "Low." This means as of today, Friday, March 11th, masking and social distancing are not required in the church building for those who are vaccinated; however, you are welcome to wear a mask at any time according to your own comfort level.

Moving Forward

- Please note that this status may change from week to week, as determined by the CDC, due to new COVID-19 variants or an increase in cases. Therefore, like the "fire risk" reporting you may see posted near the forests of Northern Minnesota, we will be posting each week's current risk rating at church as either "Low" (signs in green), "Medium" (signs in yellow) or "High" (signs in orange). We will adapt our masking and distancing behavior each week according to these ratings.
- Ratings will be determined each Thursday for the week ahead. We sincerely hope for stable and consistent rates in Hennepin County, and therefore hopefully infrequent protocol changes. That said, even if changes are necessary, we believe the CDC guidelines provide the most accurate and clear metric for guiding our life together going forward.
- Per CDC guidance, we ask that those exhibiting Covid symptoms, those with a positive test, those who have had exposure to someone with Covid should refrain from taking part in in-person activities, and those who are unvaccinated should

wear a mask, regardless of Hennepin County's risk level. We strongly encourage everyone who can to be fully vaccinated and boosted, for the safety of all.

- You are always welcome to continue masking and distancing, even in levels when those precautions are no longer required. We ask that you respect others and make your own decisions that meet the needs of those present, tending to the most vulnerable in our midst.
- If you ever need assistance locating a mask, taking a test, or getting a vaccine or booster, the Task Force is here to help.

As a task force, we welcome your questions. We are very thankful for the COG community for its ongoing graciousness, care-filled behavior, and prayers as we move into this next phase of the pandemic.

Faithfully working to be God's church together,

The Cross of Glory COVID Task Force

(COVID Chart and Guidelines attached)