



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

July 9, 2021

Dear Friends,

Florida Mission Center Leadership continues to monitor new case data, positive test rates, hospitalizations, deaths, CDC guidance, and state government guidelines. We are also aware of the reopening of the state of Florida and the standards now practiced in public spaces. It still seems clear that the novel coronavirus, including its new variants now in Florida, primarily spreads through the air in enclosed spaces. Those vaccinated are protected significantly from contracting and transmitting the virus and all people ages 12 and older are eligible to receive a vaccine, which is widely available. Many FMC congregation members are now fully vaccinated, and most congregations are in areas where new cases per 100,000 people are less than 10.

Guidelines for outdoor gatherings remain the same as issued in our May 26, 2021, letter. Congregations may gather outdoors without restrictions. Effective immediately, the mission center has updated the guidelines for indoor gatherings as follows.

Indoor Gatherings:

- Masks are now optional for fully vaccinated attendees. The two (2) attached signs should be posted at all church entrances. It then becomes the responsibility of those entering to wear a mask if needed.
- Caution should be used once the congregation feels ready to resume eating and drinking inside. Continue to follow CDC guidance for any food and drink service.
- Singing continues to be a high-risk activity for those not fully vaccinated. Consider ensembles of fully vaccinated musicians and vocalists for special music.
- Masks and hand sanitizer should continue to be available for anyone to use.
- Steps to improve ventilation should still be taken.

The mission center trusts that congregation leaders will work together as a team in putting safety first for your group. We trust your ability to interpret CDC guidance and COVID statistics for your areas (see link below). These guidelines allow room for congregations to assess the situation in your area, considering there will be vulnerable attendees, hospital availability, number of cases in the counties where your attendees live, and the comfort level of your congregation. Remember, we are still in a pandemic; people are still going to the hospital and even dying from COVID-19 and its new variants. Vaccination continues to be the best way for most individuals to protect themselves. But not everyone can or will get vaccinated.



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We continue to be available for support as you make decisions on the best ways to meet in your areas. The mission center will continue to watch the statistics and will advise if the situation changes and warrants any updates to the guidelines.

CDC guidelines can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>.

Thank you for your continued leadership and the many ways in which you represent both the church and Christ in your communities.

Ken Campbell, Chuck Petz, Mark Dixon
Mission Center Presidents

cc: Apostle Barbara Carter
Carrie Welch
Mission Center Council

