

# November 2021: Prince of Peace Covid-19 Safety Protocols

## Pandemic Plan Update

Adopted October 28, 2021

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#### I. What has changed

##### Now that

- That 74% of Burlington County is vaccinated.
- The Delta Wave of the Coronavirus is waning in this area with the positive test percentage and the rate of transmission leveling off (to around the percentage health officials suggest will be the norm for most places for the time being).
- Local schools have reopened with safety precautions in place and have seen only a small rise in cases.
- The CDC is considering vaccine approval for children 5-11 years old this week and will likely be given the green light soon thereafter.
- Government recommended Safety Guidelines have been relaxed

#### II. Faith Based Ethical Principles

Jesus reminded us that we are to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, love our neighbors as ourselves and in the New Commandment to love one another as Jesus has first loved us. Jesus also reminded us that everyone is our neighbor and that we are to take special care of those the rest of society would overlook: the poor, the vulnerable, and the outcasts. We affirm that each and every person is made in the image of God and that all persons are to be cared for in the most compassionate of ways to ensure that life is preserved and protected.

#### III. Proposed Adjustments From The POP Safety Team

The POP Safety Team proposes the following changes to our Covid-19 Safety Protocols to be instituted at the end of October 2021:

- All criterion in Items A, B, and C are based on the Covid Act Now data for Burlington County
- Decisions will be based on the overall Covid Risk Level (see example in Figure 1)
- The Covid Risk Level will be reviewed weekly on Tuesday so that POP staff can properly prepare for the upcoming worship and provide time to communicate with our church members and friends.
- As we witness what is happening with the virus for this next season and once children can be vaccinated, we will use guidance from our public health agencies and the church to see how protocols will be adjusted for the future.

##### A. Indoor worship acceptable when the overall Risk Level is:

- a. Low (green)
- b. Medium (yellow)
- c. or High (orange)

- B. Outdoor worship acceptable when the overall Risk Level is:
- Very High (red)
  - High
  - Medium
  - or Low
- C. Indoor & Outdoor Worship is moved to online only when overall Risk Level is:
- Severe (maroon)



Figure 1. Example

#### IV. Worship Opportunities

**November 1, 2021, through January 2, 2022**

(Mid December - Winter Worship Schedule will be released for January)

##### A. 5:30 - Saturday Evening Worship

- **In-person Outdoors unless temperature is below 50° or heavy rain, then inside**
- Please bring your own chair
- Anyone at any time who wishes to wear a mask may do so
- Communion, for the time being, will continue to be administered through the bread alone

##### B. 9:30 – Sunday Morning Worship

- **In-person Inside the Sanctuary**
- Some seating will be blocked to help accommodate safer spacing
- A special Ionizing air filtration system has been installed on all air handlers for the sanctuary and office wing of the building which kills 99% of viruses and bacteria that flow through the system, including Covid-19.
- **For the safety of unvaccinated children and because we will be singing masks will be required for all when gathering for indoor worship for this next season.**
- Communion will be administered through the bread and wine, or grape juice poured into individual cups in front of the altar.
- We will keep the glass walls in the back of the sanctuary open as well as the windows and doors in the sanctuary during worship

##### C. 5:30 pm – Sunday Evenings

- Online Gathering for Worship
- Zoom Link will be in Friday Newsletter

## **V. Protocols when in the building**

*For our personal health and that of our neighbor we commit to wear a Mask:*

- When gathering for worship indoors  
(Especially, because we will be singing and for the safety of unvaccinated children.)
- If you are not vaccinated or immunocompromised
- If there are more than ten (10) people gathering in the same indoor space at one time\*
- If you choose to wear one

\* Groups of ten or less with no children (12 and under) present may decide among themselves whether to wear masks or not while indoors. The unvaccinated are asked to wear a mask. Anyone may wear a mask at any time for any reason.