



May 14, 2021 Pandemic Advisory Update from the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk

Friends in Christ,

Greetings to you in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We know that many of you have been anticipating an updated Pandemic Advisory from the Presbytery of Donegal Leader Team and Connecting Our Ministry Commission (COM).

Yesterday, May 13, 2021 after multiple drafts of and many hours of research, COM and the Leader Team approved the updated Advisory, with the best information available. About ten minutes from pushing the “send” button, the CDC issued new advice, eliminating the need to wear face coverings or to socially distance for those who are fully vaccinated. A little while later, Pennsylvania followed suit.

As you would expect, this up-ended our advisory. The writing team is back at work, and we will have the best update we can provide early next week.

In the meantime, here is some information.

The new advisory from the CDC is titled “Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People” and may be found here: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html

The key provisions are that fully vaccinated people can:

- Resume activities without wearing masks or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.
- Refrain from testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic, with some exceptions for specific settings.
- Refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic.
- Refrain from routine screening testing if feasible.

An infographic showing what is safe and less safe for fully vaccinated people and unvaccinated people may be found here: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/pdfs/choosingSaferAct.pdf

May 14, 2021

pg. 2

Pennsylvania's Guidance automatically updated to match the CDC in accordance with this provision: www.health.pa.gov/Documents/First%20Amendment%20to%20Updated%20Order%20of%20the%20Secretary%20Requiring%20Universal%20Face%20Coverings%20Clean%2031621.pdf

In Pennsylvania, the face covering and social distancing order for those who are unvaccinated (including children above the age of two who are not eligible) remains in effect until the percent of the adult population who are fully vaccinated reaches the 70% threshold.

As we said, we will send out our best guidance in this changing scenario early next week.

At present, it is important to remember that those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear face masks and socially distance. This creates many questions for sessions to consider about how they will handle indoor worship, in particular.

We have been contacted in the past twenty-four hours by many of our pastors and worship leaders. Some are elated. Some are alarmed. Many are confused about what is prudent for the immediate future.

Please know that you all are in our prayers, with gratitude for your ministry.



Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes
Executive Presbyter



Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson
Stated Clerk