

COVID Policy  
Covid Guidelines Submitted by Becky Lindstrom  
First Unitarian Church of South Bend  
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Revised 10-12-22

We're going to have to go with the CDC community metrics at this point. As case numbers become less and less reliable due to at-home testing and general apathy, hospital admissions are the best indicator of community spread. Unfortunately, they are also a lagging indicator by about 2 weeks, so case numbers will still play a role.

The CDC has two tiers now - less than 200 cases/100,000 and more than 200 cases/100,000. If you scroll down to look at the chart on their website, it explains these two levels very clearly. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

I suggest we go with their green, yellow, and orange levels, and then create our own red category to know when to shut down again, if necessary. For the red category, I propose combining the over 200 cases/100,000 metric with the higher hospital admissions (+20/100,000) and in-patient beds occupied (+15%) metrics for the under 200 cases/100,000 tier of the chart. So, we would go back to all online if we have more than 200 cases/100,000 in the county, more than 20 new hospital admissions per day and more than 15% of hospital beds occupied by COVID patients.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

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Based on the CDC's new [community level metrics](#)

**Green**

- All restrictions lifted for most church events; on Sunday mornings, we request that everyone who enters the building wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask until 10 minutes after the worship service ends
- Vaccinations with up-to-date boosters are strongly encouraged for all eligible congregants
- Those who are at greater risk are welcome to mask and socially distance at all church events

## **Yellow**

- Being up-to-date on vaccinations and boosters for all eligible congregants is strongly recommended for in-person activities
- Masking and social distancing required
- No singing permitted
- Distanced socializing permitted indoors for 20 minutes before and after Sunday services or meetings
- No food or drinks indoors
- Outdoor capacity limit: None
- Indoor Sunday service capacity limit: 60
- Indoor small group limit: 20

## **Orange**

- Being up-to-date on vaccinations and boosters for all eligible congregants is strongly recommended for in-person activities
- N95/KN95/KF94 masks are strongly recommended and social distancing is required
- No singing permitted
- No food or drinks indoors
- No socializing indoors
- Indoor Sunday service capacity limit: 30
- Indoor small group limit: 10 (take steps to improve ventilation)
- Outdoor capacity limit: 50

**– PLEASE NOTE: The board may vote to move Sunday services and small groups online if case numbers and hospitalizations start to increase exponentially. Ideally 48 hours notice will be provided beforehand.**

## **Red (200+ cases/100,000 AND 20+ hospital admissions/100,000 AND 15%+ in-patient beds are COVID)**

- Sunday services held online only
- Outdoor capacity limit: 40
- No indoor meetings permitted

– Only people performing essential tasks should be in building and on grounds–  
**PLEASE NOTE: The board may vote to return to in-person Sunday services and small groups at the Orange level if case numbers and hospitalizations start to decrease exponentially and hospitals are no longer over-stressed.**