

Church of the Holy Trinity Re-Entry Committee COVID Thresholds for Worship

The Re-Entry Committee recommends continuing to use the statistics for Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania published on the COVID Act Now website as the benchmarks for determining what worship activities are allowed. The site tracks 3 major statistics, and assigned them five levels of concern:

NUMBER OF NEW DAILY CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION

- **Low concern:** less than 1 daily new case per 100,000 population
- **Medium concern:** 1 - 9.9 daily new cases per 100,000 population
- **High concern:** 10 - 24.9 daily new cases per 100,000 population (*at 15 cases CDC says mask*)
- **Critical concern:** 25 - 74.9 daily new cases per 100,000 population
- **Extreme concern:** 75 or greater daily new cases per 100,000 population

INFECTION RATE (the higher this number the more likely cases are growing exponentially)

- **Low concern:** less than 0.90 new infections for each new case
- **Medium concern:** 1.00 - 1.09 new infections for each new case
- **High concern:** 1.10 - 1.39 new infections for each new case
- **Critical concern:** 1.40 - 2.09 new infections for each new case
- **Extreme concern:** 2.1 or greater new infections for each new case

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TEST POSITIVITY RATE (the higher this number the more likely cases are not being detected)

- **Low concern:** less than 3% of tests positive
- **Medium concern:** 3 - 9.9% of tests positive
- **High concern:** 10 - 19.9% of tests positive
- **Critical concern:** 20 - 35.9% of tests positive
- **Extreme concern:** 36% or greater of tests positive

MASKS

Should be required to attend church until ALL THREE of the following conditions are met:

1. all metrics are green (i.e. adequate testing confirms no community spread in the city)
2. vaccines available to all ages for at least 8 weeks
3. citywide vaccination rate above 70%

VACCINATION

Should NOT be required to attend church, but might be required in some settings (i.e. for all church staff and choir members; for certain volunteers with public-facing duties; for congregants to attend youth groups, or to receive childcare).

THOUGHTS FROM ASHLEY RITTER...

There is not a clear "threshold" to make decisions. Vaccinated people are pretty well protected and unvaccinated are very unprotected. Breakthrough infections, while still pretty rare, are still capable of further transmission. The more COVID there is floating around, the more likely vaccinated people will have breakthrough infections. The trend is concerning and likely to worsen. Focus on the most vulnerable populations.

ANY EXTREME THRU **2+ CRITICAL** statistics -



Phase: Extreme Caution: Streamed Church w/ 8 participants, no congregation

- ❖ ONE 11AM service - attended only by the following team: 1 officiant, 1 musician, 1 reader, 1 camera person, 4 singers, streamed live in real-time
- ❖ Morning Prayer service
- ❖ All Participants will test before coming to the service (test provided by church)
- ❖ Maximum distancing enforced, separating singers from other participants
- ❖ Highest available masks used – masking at all times enforced.

1 CRITICAL THRU **ALL HIGH** statistics -



Phase: Community Caution: Streamed Church w/out Congregation

- ❖ ONE 11AM service - attended only by participants, streamed live in real-time.
- ❖ Social distancing (6 ft.) enforced.
- ❖ Bread offered in pews (no wine) after sanitizing hands, to be eaten after the priest leaves congregant.
- ❖ No indoor fellowship.

0-2 HIGH THRU **1-3 MEDIUM** statistics -

Phase: Community Care: Streamed Church w/Congregation & Reservations



- ❖ ONE 11AM service - attended by participants and household pods by pew, streamed live in real-time
- ❖ Social distancing (3 ft.) enforced.
- ❖ Bread offered in pews (no wine) after sanitizing hands, to be eaten after the priest leaves congregant.
- ❖ No in person youth groups.
- ❖ No childcare.

1-2 MEDIUM THRU **1-2 GREEN** statistics

Phase: Open Community: Streamed Church w/Congregation & Walk Up Attendance



- ❖ ONE 11AM service - attended by participants and household pods by pew, streamed live in real-time
- ❖ Social distancing (3 ft.) enforced.
- ❖ Bread offered in pews (no wine) after sanitizing hands, to be eaten after the priest leaves congregant.
- ❖ No in person youth groups.
- ❖ No childcare.

ALL GREEN statistics

Phase: Wide Open Community- WIDE OPEN HEARTS, WIDE OPEN DOORS



- ❖ Services attended by anyone who wishes to enter the building, doors left open throughout service
- ❖ General AND socially distanced seating area offered.
- ❖ Wrist bands to indicate comfort interacting with others (red, yellow, green)
- ❖ Communion offered at altar rail (wine offered when allowed by diocese). Bread only offered in pews in socially distanced seating area.

- ❖ In person youth activities***

- ❖ In person childcare***
- ❖ Changes to masking when vaccination availability and adoption hit benchmarks

***NOTE: after vaccines are available for 8 weeks - with rules set by staff providing this activity.

OTHER POTENTIAL CHANGES TO INCLUDE/SWAP IN AND OUT ABOVE AS NEEDED:

- Virtual worship pods of 2-3 similarly comfortable households
- Pre-recorded choir during in-person service
- Outdoor worship with mitigation
- Pre-testing - or rapid testing - for congregants to attend service
- Only vaccinated congregants permitted to attend church
- Instrumental music only during services