

# Health and Safety Plan

8/23/2021 | MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Adopted by the MELC Council on 8/17/2021. Amended on 8/23/2021.**

The current level of restriction is adjusted weekly based on the CDC Community Transmission Level for Union County PA as of Thursday at noon and not changed until the following Thursday unless there is very significant sudden change.

## CDC COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION LEVELS<sup>1</sup>

Transmission Level	Indicator <i>Most cautious indicator is used.</i>	
	Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days <sup>2</sup>	Percentage of NAATs <sup>3</sup> that are positive during the past 7 days <sup>4</sup>
Low Transmission	0-9.99	0-4.99%
Moderate Transmission	10-49.99	5-7.99%
Substantial Transmission	50-99.99	8-9.99%
High Transmission	≥100	≥10.0%

### Low Transmission

Control is achieved largely through individual prevention behaviors and the public health response to identify and isolate cases or clusters.

### Moderate Transmission

Adherence to individual and selected community level prevention strategies are needed.

### Substantial Transmission

Everyday activities should be limited to reduce spread and protect the health care system.

### High Transmission

Significant measures are needed to limit contact between persons, with priority given to maintaining essential community activities and services (e.g., health care, transportation, food and agriculture, schools).

<sup>1</sup> From: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker>

<sup>2</sup> Calculated by adding the number of new cases in the county (or other administrative level) in the last 7 days divided by the population in the county (or other administrative level) and multiplying by 100,000.

<sup>3</sup> NAAT remains the "gold standard" for clinical diagnostic detection of SARS-CoV-2 and includes viral testing such as Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs), which include reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests.

<sup>4</sup> Calculated by dividing the number of positive tests in the county (or other administrative level) during the last 7 days by the total number of tests resulted over the last 7 days.

# CONGREGATION ACTIVITY ADJUSTMENTS

## Low Transmission

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- **General**
  - Mostly like pre-COVID normal
- **Fellowship**
  - Indoor coffee hour
  - Hall available for use
- **Worship**
  - More indoor singing
  - Common cup available for communion
  - Can consider choir resuming

## Moderate Transmission

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- **General**
  - Vaccinated – no need to mask. Not Vaccinated – please mask.
- **Fellowship**
  - Coffee on the lawn as much as weather permits, can be inside once weather changes.
- **Worship**
  - Discourage hearty indoor singing

## Substantial Transmission

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- **General**
  - Masks required in the building for gatherings of more than 3-4 people.
  - Education activities follow MASD for online only or hybrid decisions.
- **Fellowship**
  - Coffee fellowship is outside only or online.
- **Worship**
  - Masks required during worship. *Lectors and preacher may remove when reading/preaching for clarity.*
  - Physically distancing in pews.
  - Reduce number of verses of hymns and number of hymns. Cantors in the hall. Strongly discourage singing indoors.
  - Acolyte and pastor masked during communion distribution when indoors.
  - Come forward for communion
  - If weather permits, outdoor worship with more singing and no masks is an option.
    - After August 29, outdoor worship that happens will be on the lawn.

## High Transmission

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- **General**
  - Masks required indoors in all situations except alone.
- **Fellowship**
  - Fellowship activities (coffee hour, Rally Day lunch, and similar) happen outdoors.
- **Worship**
  - Indoor Worship
    - Communion in pews.
  - Outdoor Worship is an option as stated in Substantial.