

## Updated CDC Guidance for Covid-19

On Friday, February 25, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changed their guidance to measure the impact of COVID-19 illness on communities and healthcare systems. This is a shift away from evaluating new case counts and positivity rates. The pandemic is not over, and the new CDC guidance is a way to live with the coronavirus. Please [click here](#) to see the new Covid-19 Community Levels system and Covid-19 prevention guidance.

The Covid-19 Community Level system has three levels: Low, Medium, and High. **Low and Medium levels allow masks to be optional indoors in public places. At this time, all counties in the diocese are at Low or Medium.** If any county moves to the High level, all the churches in that county should immediately resume wearing masks in church.

The new guidance has shifted the risk profile from the community to the individual. The CDC has prevention measures for those who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease. Parishes should distribute to their congregations the Covid-19 Community Levels system and Covid-19 prevention guidance found in the link in the first paragraph.

If your parish adopts optional masking, you will need to monitor your county's Community Level each week. The CDC updates the levels on Friday. You can find the County Check at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

If you adopt optional masking, you can safely resume coffee hours, receptions, and dinners as long the parish is at the Low or Medium level.

Please remind your congregation:

- If you or anyone in your family is ill, please do not attend services.
- Some people will continue to wear a mask indoors in public places and we need to respect their decision.

Faithfully,

Ron

The Rev. Ronald B. Young  
Chair, COVID Task Force