

RIVER TERRACE CHURCH - COVID RESPONSE UPDATE

This fall, the church communicated an updated COVID-19 Response Plan aimed at making our church a welcome and safe environment for people of all ages, including children who were ineligible to be vaccinated, by requiring masks during worship services and when children were present. In response to children ages 5-12 becoming eligible for the vaccine, the COVID-19 Advisory Team (made up of staff and Council leadership) created an updated response plan that reflects different levels of mitigation strategies to match our church's practices to the risk level within our county. This plan has been reviewed and approved by Council.

Based on our new response plan, the church is currently at a COVID response Level 3. In order for the church to move to a Level 2, two criteria must be met: first, children ages 5-12 must have been given enough time to be fully vaccinated and second, the risk level within Ingham County Health Department must drop below high. The COVID-19 Advisory Team plans on reviewing these criteria on January 1st, 2022. Waiting until January 1st will allow enough time for kids ages 5-12 to be fully vaccinated, and it provides an extra level of protection through the Christmas holidays to make worship accessible for those drawn to seek the community of church during the Christmas season. If Ingham County is still in the high-risk category on January 1st, the COVID-19 Advisory Team will continue to monitor that status and the church will move to Level 2 when the county's risk level is lower.

2021/22 COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

LEVEL 1:

- Properly worn face coverings will be optional for all indoor church services, ministry programs, and events.
- Building usage will be available to outside groups and organizations.
- Vaccination is encouraged for all ministry volunteers.
- Congregation will be encouraged to be mindful and aware of differing levels of comfort in social spaces as well as personal boundaries.

LEVEL 2:

- Properly worn face coverings will be optional for all indoor church services, ministry programs, and events.
- Properly worn face coverings will be required for all volunteers, attendants and staff working in the nursery, Greenhouse children's ministry, Kingdom Kids and Preschool Sunday School.
- Masks for infants and toddlers ages 0-4 will be optional due to the young age.
- Properly worn face coverings will be required for all children, ages 5 and up, participating in any children's ministry where children age 0-4 are present.
- Attendance will be taken in all children's classrooms and youth activities for the purpose of contact tracing.
- Vaccination is encouraged for all ministry volunteers.
- Building usage will be available to outside groups and organizations.
- Congregation will be encouraged to be mindful and aware of differing levels of comfort in social spaces as well as personal boundaries.

LEVEL 3:

- Properly worn face coverings will be required at all worship services and ministries where children 12 and under are, or may be, present as well as in common areas of the church (including hallways, restrooms, and gathering spaces).
- During activities where children are not involved, or the group is outside, masks will be optional.
- Properly worn face coverings will be required for all volunteers and participants in youth or children's ministries. Youth and children's ministries will be encouraged to creatively utilize outdoor spaces for gatherings and events when weather permits.
- At events where food is being served, individuals will be seated 4 at a table if not from the same household.
- Vaccination is encouraged for all ministry volunteers.
- Building usage will be available to outside groups and organizations, but face coverings will be required for all participants when in common spaces or the restrooms.
- Congregation will be encouraged to be mindful and aware of differing levels of comfort in social spaces as well as personal boundaries.

LEVEL 4:

- Properly worn face coverings will be required for the entire length of all indoor services, ministry activities, and social gatherings.
- Properly worn face coverings will be required volunteers and participants in all youth or children's ministries. Youth and children's ministries will be encouraged to creatively utilize outdoor spaces for gatherings and events when weather permits.
- Sanctuary seating capacity will be reduced and seating in the sanctuary staggered. There will be no congregational singing during worship services.
- Limited building usage will be permitted for outside groups and organizations, but face coverings will be required for all participants, regardless of vaccination status.
- No food or drinks will be served in the church.

LEVEL 5:

- All children and youth ministry programming will be moved online, outdoors, or by remote correspondence.
- All church-sponsored meetings or events will take place online or outdoors
- All small groups and Bible studies will be encouraged to meet online or outdoors.
- Sanctuary seating capacity will be reduced to 50% and seating in the sanctuary will be staggered. There will be no congregational singing during worship services and service attendees must pre-register to attend or sign-in at the welcome desk.
- Building usage will not permitted to outside groups or organizations.