

COVID statement from Park Administrative Elders – updated September 2021

As church elders we ...

- We continue to pray for God to end the pandemic, which has caused so much sickness and division in our nation and our world. We are concerned by the rising cases of COVID in our country and anticipate that more challenges are still ahead.
- We lament how COVID has hurt church and school communities--causing division even among families and spouses. Each person has a different risk tolerance; plus, some are more vulnerable because of pre-existing conditions, some families have unvaccinated children, etc. As Christians we need to be loving and kind as we consider the needs of others. Our decisions regarding vaccines and masks do not just impact ourselves, but also impact those around us.
- We recognize that no solution is a perfect solution. There are not only physical dangers of getting sick, but there are also other dangers, such as: isolation/loneliness, mental/emotional health, and long-term impacts that are also important to consider.
- We grieve the large amount of misinformation and confusion. Media and politicians often approach COVID issues with agendas, and even scientific studies can present inconclusive or conflicting information. Bad theology can point believers in the wrong directions for answers.

Our strategy for Park Church ...

- At this point, we plan to continue with our normal worship and programming schedule as much as we can, while being flexible and ready to adjust. If we receive more specific directions from the county or local government we will use their guidance for establishing more COVID prevention guidelines.
- As a general rule, we have followed school guidelines for our children's ministries. That means that children ages 5 through 6th grade and their teachers should wear masks during Sunday School, GEMs, Cadets, etc. due to the closer proximity –for as long as this is required at schools.
- Those serving food should be masked also.
- When the weather is nice, we will have our coffee time after church outdoors and continue to provide a live-stream service outdoors. In bad weather, our live-stream will be shown in the gym. We want to provide options to help accommodate more people.
- We continue to stress that those with even mild symptoms of illness should be cautious and not come to church events until you feel better.