

UPDATE FROM YOUR SELC COVID RESPONSE TEAM
November 28, 2022

As of late last week, Cochise County, along with several others, are in the “High” community risk level for Covid-19, according to www.covidactnow.org. Weekly new reported cases per 100,00 are at 225.5; weekly Covid hospital admissions per 100K are 10.2; and patients with Covid take up 5.4% of hospital beds. Based on this high-risk status, the CDC recommends masking indoors in public due to these high levels.

Your SELC Covid Response Team met last night to discuss how we should respond to these increases. Here is what was decided:

Please stay home if you don't quite feel 100% or exhibit any symptoms of illness whatsoever. Even if you haven't tested positive for Covid it is safer for all to stay away because of the high infection rate of influenza and RSV. Online worship on Sundays and Wednesdays are always available for you to worship from home, either at the actual worship times or another more convenient time for you.

Worship - Wearing masks in the sanctuary is highly recommended, though not required. Extra masks are available in the narthex. The rear pulpit-side section continues to be reserved only for those who not only wear masks but also remain distanced. As always, you are welcome to take an individual communion cup as you enter if you do not wish to gather around the altar. Altar Communion will still be offered. Servers will be masked and hands sanitized. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed on either side of the chancel area if you'd like to apply sanitizer before taking communion. Tissue packets will be made available for you to take if needed (no need to just take out one or a few tissues; grab the whole packet!)

Fellowship Events - Fellowship events involving food will still be offered (except the “Carols & Potluck,” for several reasons). If you prefer, please feel free to wear a mask and socially distance to your comfort level during any fellowship events to limit the spread of viral illness, especially for those that have high-risk health conditions or live with people with such conditions. We will have masks available. Of course, if for any reason don't feel comfortable attending such events we completely understand and there is no judgment made.

We make these recommendations in good faith and with trust that we are doing what we can to reasonably decrease chances of infection in our gatherings. Of course, there is no guarantee that such steps will do that 100%. Being fully vaccinated and receiving all the boosters available is still the best way to prevent serious illness and hospitalization. For more information on what to do following exposure or testing positive, go to www.cdc.gov, and search in the Menu for “What to Do If You Were Exposed to Covid-19” and click on the “Isolation and Exposure Calculator.”

Thank you for your patience and understanding and, most of all, for your prayers for health and healing for all.

