

Healthy Church Protection Levels

In an effort to effectively communicate changes in how we will attempt to appropriately mitigate risk in an environment where the risk is changing, we will modify our recommended mitigation actions based on the risk level in our area. We will use the Fairfax County COVID-19 website (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/fairfax-county-health-department>) as the indication of community transmission rate and take actions commensurate with the reported level of transmission.

Level 0 – Routine actions (Low to no community transmission)

Take everyday actions to stop the spread of disease:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands as appropriate and for at least 20 seconds with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Ensure all immunizations are up to date
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with others

Level 1 – Minimal actions (Low community transmission)

Continue Level 0 actions and:

- Disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces that are indoors
- If you are sick, contact your health provider and seek advice
- Masks optional indoors at church
- Group leaders maintain contact tracing information for every indoor meeting
- Food and drinks allowed indoors
- Small group meetings encouraged

Level 2 – Moderate actions (Moderate community transmission)

Continue actions at Level 0, 1 and:

- Avoid unnecessary contact with others such as shaking hands, hugging
- Stay home from church for a week if you have traveled by air or to an area experiencing active disease transmission
- Masks are optional while indoors at church
- Maintain 3-ft social distancing while indoors at church
- Food and gatherings allowed indoor

Level 3 – Impactful actions (Substantial community transmission)

Continue actions at previous levels and:

- Masks required indoors at church for all persons except for fully vaccinated persons only while speaking from the pulpit
- Maintain 6-ft social distancing while indoors at church
- Food and drinks allowed outdoors, everyone brings their own
- Minimize extended small group meetings indoors
- Pre-church meetings (e.g. Sunday school) should be outside or virtual

Level 4 – Restricted actions (High community transmission)

Continue actions at previous levels and:

- Masks required indoors at church for all persons at all times
- Congregational quiet singing permitted but choir singing is not
- Minimize frequency and duration of indoor gatherings

Level 5 – Quarantine actions

- Online worship service only, small, in-person gatherings by exception with pre-approval from PRG.