



Re-entry team update 08/26/2021

Dear CUMC Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The COVID-19 Re-entry team met on Monday, August 23rd via Zoom to discuss safety protocols for our church community as COVID-19 cases continue to increase in our county and state. We have also received further guidance from our Bishop's re-entry team. Thankfully, we have already been implementing the safety guidelines they recommend, but we want to reiterate our commitment to safely meeting in-person for worship. We also acknowledge that we are in a new place with the virus as cases continue to rise and hospital beds fill up.

This section of the Bishop's email stood out:

"We weep and lament the suffering and loss of life that is impacting so many individuals, families, churches, and communities.

*Because of the Delta variant, **we are at a new place.***

*Our moral calling is to **Love our Neighbors by Doing No Harm.** Each congregation must prayerfully and courageously make immediate safe decisions related to the current public health crisis and its impact. We must strive for the health and protection of the whole faith body. We are called to be mindful of everyone in each decision."*

[We encourage you to read the full email here.](#)

We are also reminded that this continues to be a very local concern. The News-Sentinel reported on August 20th that pre-Covid our local U of L hospital saw about 25 patients a day and admitted 3-4 per day. But since the recent surge, “ER volume has grown to 50 or 60 patients per day and we are admitting 20 to 25 patients daily.” Along with this they are seeing younger people regularly admitted with serious COVID-19 symptoms. [You can read the full article here.](#)

Thank you for your continued commitment to “do no harm” and worship safely by following our previous pre-cautions and these new guidelines:

- **Masks will be required for all in-door activities regardless of vaccination status.** This includes worship, Sunday School classes, meetings, and children & youth activities. Put masks on prior to entering the building and keep them on throughout the entire worship service or meeting. If you do not have a mask, we will provide one for you.
- Masks must be worn over your nose and mouth.
- Masks should be worn by children over the age of 2.
- We know that some adults, and many of our children, are unable to wear a mask for this time frame. To protect all of our members, we ask those unable to wear a mask to continue worshipping from home.
- If you are feeling sick or showing COVID-19 symptoms, we encourage you to worship from home.
- Online giving is still encouraged at [Centenaryshelbyville.com/give](https://www.centenaryshelbyville.com/give), and offering plates will be available at the door.

These new guidelines will also be implemented:

- We encourage outdoor or online meetings, when possible, to limit in-person contact.
- We are asking in-person Sunday School classes to move to larger rooms in the church building when possible.
- Youth group will meet outside or via Zoom.

We also want the church to be a resource to you as you seek the truth and combat the rampant misinformation about the virus and vaccines. If you have questions or concerns about mask wearing, vaccines, or other questions about the virus, we have various health professionals who would be more than willing to speak with you. These are trusted members of our church family who are actively treating and studying the virus. If you would like to speak to someone, please reach out to Pastor Trent or Pastor Katie and we can put you in contact with one of them.

We truly appreciate your patience as we navigate in-person worship and in-person ministries.

Remember – The church has never closed. The church cannot be closed. The church is not a building. The church is a people.

Grace + peace,
The Re-entry Team

Pastor Trent, Pastor Katie, Amy Waggener, Kenny Gardner, Holly Husband, Nick Headley, Cathy Spicer, Brandon Pratt, Reesa Headley, and Kay Burney.