

## **CHUP COVID-19 Task Force**

**Thursday 3/3/2022 5:30 P.M.**

**Revised 3/6/22 as recommended by Session:**

On Friday, February 25, 2022, the CDC issued new standards for measuring the impact of COVID-19 on community health. In addition to tracking levels of COVID-19 cases and community transmission, the new metrics track COVID-19 hospital admissions and the percentage of hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. These metrics are summarized in community risk ratings of Low, Medium, and High. Under these new standards, Allegheny County is currently rated “Low” – and masking is no longer required.

Considering this current information we make the following recommendations regarding COVID-19 protocol at The First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights:

- Indoor masking throughout our facilities will be optional.
- We recognize that families with young children, immunocompromised individuals, and others unable to be vaccinated remain among us, participating in various activities in the life of our church. So in consultation with their leaders, individual church groups (such as the Crafton Heights Community Preschool) may choose to continue with a masking requirement for their respective events.
- We will set aside seating in the sanctuary for those who choose to worship in person but need or prefer to mask and social distance. This will be the left section (Stratmore Street) of the sanctuary and will be marked “Masks Required”. There will also be a section near the computer/livestream work station designated as “Masks Required”. *Anyone wearing mask may, of course, attend worship masked without sitting in the specially designated section.*
- *Because the community spread is so low right now, and our experience is that so many of our neighbors are out and about, we will no longer ask people to sign in for purposes of contact tracing.*

We will continue to ask those who have symptoms or test positive stay at home and participate via livestream or FaceTime when possible.

We recommend these changes beginning March 7, 2022.

We've been through this before and these protocols are subject to change based on evolving public health conditions.

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