

**Van Meter United Methodist Church**  
**Procedures for Indoor Worship**  
**May 17, 2022**

These guidelines reflect changes in our COVID policy that were adopted at our May Administrative Council Meeting. The Community Risk Level from COVID in Dallas and the surrounding counties remains low however the number of COVID cases has been slowly increasing since mid-March. The average number of new cases being reported daily in Dallas County is 14.

**Personal Protective Equipment**

- Wearing a mask is optional.
- A supply of disposable masks will be available.
- Our mask policy will be posted on the entrance doors.

**Worship Service Modification**

- Bulletins and the Grapevine will be available for pickup on the table in the entry hallway before the service rather than being handed to the worshipers
- Offering plates may be passed during the service. Studies indicate that the COVID virus is mainly transmitted through the air and not on surfaces.
- Children may come to the front of the sanctuary to participate in The Word for Young Disciples.

**Social Behavior**

- Attendees who are feeling ill are asked not to attend Sunday School or the Worship Service.
- Hugging and hand shaking are permitted between worshipers who are currently comfortable with the practice.

**Environmental controls**

- The Sanctuary and Overflow will be cleaned prior to and after the Worship Services.
- Sanitizing stations will be provided.
- A staffed nursery will not be available.

**Engineering Controls**

- Our building envelope is not sealed well. This allows for many air changes per hour without making any changes to the existing HVAC system.
- Air is supplied from floor registers along the outside walls and the return air is removed by overhead grills. This arrangement helps to remove contaminated air.
- The furnace blowers will be set to run continuously prior to, during, and after the Worship Service to more effectively move contaminated air away from the seating area.
- Ceiling fans will not be used during the Worship Service because they are downdraft and will introduce additional turbulence in the air flow in the Sanctuary causing an increase in exposure to contaminated air.
- The windows along the sides of the Sanctuary will be open prior, during, and after the Worship Services to introduce additional fresh air into the Sanctuary.