



COVID-19 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

v. 4.0 :2/2/2022

These policies and procedures have been drafted in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations provided by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia Department of Health, and the Health and Safety Committee.

Any questions or concerns regarding these policies should be directed to Mountain Park United Methodist Church
770-921-8512

The health, safety, and well-being of Mountain Park United Methodist Church congregants, staff, and others is always of the utmost concern in our operations and is a driving force for establishing health and safety guidelines. As we face this unprecedented public health emergency of COVID-19 Coronavirus, MPUMC remains committed to continuing to provide spiritual, emotional, and faith formation services and activities which we recognize as being vital to one's spiritual health. Because the COVID-19 pandemic is a fluid situation, MPUMC reserves the right to change these policies as needed in response to changing trends and/or knowledge about the virus. Any changes will be communicated in a timely manner. Thank you for partnering with us to be able to safely continue in ministry to you, your families, and our community.

General COVID Information and Precautions:

For general information regarding the COVID-19 virus and vaccination recommendations, please visit www.cdc.gov . If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, or feeling ill in any way, we ask that you please remain at home until your symptoms subside. MPUMC strongly encourages those who are eligible to obtain a COVID vaccine and booster. Anyone attending programming by MPUMC is expected to comply with the current mask protocols. The Staff and Lay Leadership of MPUMC will do all they can to mitigate the risk of COVID transmission, however anyone attending MPUMC services, activities, and/or programming, assumes the risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus.

DATA Source and Indicators for Operational Status:

Mountain Park United Methodist Church will use the Gwinnett, Rockdale, and Newton Counties Health Departments (GNR) and the data reported on their dashboard for specific zip codes surrounding the MPUMC campus as our data source. The data provided on this website will be our source for determining the level of our operational status going forward. This data will be monitored by both church staff and the Health and Safety Committee. This data may be found at: <https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/gnr-covid-19/>. Our operational status will indicate the types and places of gatherings that are able to take place on our church campus.

MPUMC's operational status will occur in one of two settings:

Low-Risk and High-Risk

- **Low-Risk Status:** number of cases reported are 101-499 cases per 100,000 people
- **High-Risk Status:** number of cases reported are >500 cases per 100,000 people

The Ministerial staff, in conjunction with the Health and Safety team, will monitor the trends of the case rates in the 3 Zip code areas of 30039, 30047 and 30087 and if the numbers begin to trend upward we will re-evaluate whether or not we need to temporarily suspend in person gatherings on the church campus, particularly if MPUMC is operating in the High Risk Status.

**The Pastoral Staff of MPUMC has the ultimate authority to make exceptions to these guidelines as they deem necessary with considerations being given to the level of risk and the level of need.*

**The Worship and Program Staff of MPUMC will be responsible for making decisions for their respective ministry areas as to what programming is acceptable within these guidelines.*

Low-Risk Operational Status:

MPUMC will function in a Low-Risk Operational Status when the data reflects 101-499 cases per 100,000 people. The following protocols will be in effect when we are in the Low-Risk Operational Status:

- **Masks will be preferred**
 - *Masks will be optional for outdoor gatherings but are encouraged for those who are immunocompromised or more comfortable wearing one.*
- **Small groups may meet**
- **Volunteers may serve in the building and office areas**
- **In Person Worship services may be held**
- **Music Rehearsals may take place with appropriate spacing/distancing**
- **External or affiliated group activities (more than 30 people) may take place with appropriate spacing/distancing**
 - *Examples include Pack Meetings, Gatherings for Fundraisers, Fall Festival, etc.*
- **Large group activities involving food and drink may take place**
 - *Examples include Wednesday Night Supper, Youth Dinners, Hospitality stations*
 - *People may serve themselves*
 - *Any activity involving the preparation and serving of food/drink should be done so in accordance with the Kitchen Policies of MPUMC.*
- **Overnight activities may take place**
 - *Examples include Retreats, Mission Trips, Lock-Ins*
 - *Vaccinations are strongly encouraged*
- **Outside community groups may use MPUMC facilities**

****All groups must schedule their meetings in advance through the church office. All programming must be on the church calendar to ensure there is no overlap among groups and spaces.***

High-Risk Operational Status:

MPUMC will function in a High-Risk Operational Status when the data reflects >500 cases per 100,000 people. The following protocols will be in effect when we are in the High-Risk Operational Status:

- **Masks will be required**
 - *Masks are preferred for outdoor gatherings*
- **Small groups may meet with appropriate spacing/distancing**
- **Volunteers may serve in the building and office areas**
- **In Person Worship services may be held**
 - *Worship related activities such as communion, offering, & singing should be done with utmost care to prevent COVID-19 transmission*
- **Music Rehearsals may take place with appropriate spacing/distancing**
 - *Masks should be worn during any rehearsal/worship time while singing to prevent the transmission of COVID 19.*
- **External or affiliated group activities (more than 30 people) are recommended to be outside or online via Zoom**
 - *Examples include Pack Meetings, Gatherings for Fundraisers, Fall Festival, etc.*
- **Large group activities involving food and drink may take place**
 - *Examples include Wednesday Night Supper, Youth Dinners, Hospitality stations*
 - *People may NOT serve themselves*
 - *Extra distancing should be available for groups while eating*
 - *Any activity involving the preparation and serving of food/drink should be done so in accordance with the Kitchen Policies of MPUMC.*
- **Overnight activities**
 - *Examples include Retreats, Mission Trips, Lock-Ins*
 - *In the event that positive COVID cases are rising, and the staff/team leader sees it as necessary, proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test may be asked of anyone attending the trip.*
- **Outside community groups (of less than 30) may use MPUMC facilities**

****All groups must schedule their meetings in advance through the church office. All programming must be on the church calendar to ensure there is no overlap among groups and spaces.***