

FAQ's Regarding Recent Changes to Our COVID-19 Plan

Are we violating the command to submit to government by not requiring masks?

- We don't want you to violate your conscience on this matter – wear a mask if you believe not wearing one would be disobedient to the authorities in a way that violates Romans 13.
- The Governor's [executive order](#) (9/25/20) essentially turns local COVID ordinances into recommendations rather than requirements or laws. Since his authority supersedes the County Commission, we are free to treat their ordinance as a recommendation.
- Additionally, the County Commission voted to remove any penalties for those who do not follow the ordinance which indicates it is not a law but a recommendation (laws and ordinances must have some form of enforcement).

Are cases rising in Leon County? If so, should that drive our policies?

- New cases *decreased* from 808 to 487 last week (per Leon County COVID-19 Community Update email 9/28/20). You can see the chart from the email here: <https://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/Portals/0/CMR/images/Covid%20Chart%209-28-20.png?ver=2020-09-28-143900-110>.
- The reason the Commissioners said they wanted to remain cautious is that the number of people with “influenza-like symptoms” going to the hospital went up from 19 to 24 (note - that this is distinct from those going with COVID symptoms – that number went down slightly).
- It should also be noted that a simple rise in cases is not the best method for making a policy decision. The more significant factors are the severity of the cases, hospital capacity, and fatality rates. These can be related to case numbers, but a simple case count does not give enough information to drive policy decisions. You may find [this excerpt](#) from a roundtable discussion the Governor held with several experts helpful on this issue ([click here](#) for the whole discussion).

Are we still taking precautions?

- We are still sanitizing the facility and providing hand sanitizer.
- We are still asking those who are sick not to attend.
- We are still encouraging people to maintain some distance and allowing people to wear masks.
- People who have health concerns can sit in the fellowship hall and adjust seats as desired.
- For nursery, we are still requiring masks for volunteers and temperature checks for kids and volunteers.

Are these policy changes reasonable?

- We must live with our hope in the Lord rather than percentages while we seek to make reasonable decisions based on facts.

- We are not public health or medical experts, and we recognize that even the experts have no way to know precise numbers when it comes to COVID-19 (without knowing exactly how many people have been infected it is impossible to calculate fatality rates).
- That said, we considered information provided by the CDC's "[COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios.](#)" Their current estimated *Infection Fatality Ratio* (see below) helped us see that our current policy changes are not unreasonable.

Estimated Infection Fatality Ratio

0-19 years: 0.00003 (survival rate is 99.997%)

20-49 years: 0.0002 (survival rate is 99.98%)

50-69 years: 0.005 (survival rate is 99.5%)

70+ years: 0.054 (survival rate is 94.6%)

General FAQ's about our COVID-19 Plan

How does seating work?

As of October 11, 2020, you can seat yourself in the auditorium or fellowship hall. We ask that you are mindful of others and maintain an appropriate level of distance as you seat yourself. If you need assistance, ask an usher.

Will we pass an offering plate?

Not at this time. We encourage you to mail checks (425 McDaniel Street, Tallahassee, FL 32303) or to give online (gcot.org/giving). We will provide offering plates near the exit of each room for those who want to give in person.

Will we practice communion?

Yes, on the first Sunday of each month. Each person who participates will grab one set of cups. The top cup will have the juice and the cup it is resting in will have the bread.

Will you hand out bulletins?

No. We will continue to rely on our weekly email and verbal announcements to communicate announcements. If you would like to receive the weekly email, contact mary@gcot.org.

What is the plan for sanitizing the building?

The security team disinfects all "high-touch" areas before each service. While we are striving to provide a healthy environment living in a fallen world means risk is always present.

Can I help with the logistics?

If you are a member of GCOT, we'd love to have you help with our security team (Mark@gcot.org), ushering team (Keith@gcot.org), media team (Larry@gcot.org), or nursery (Mary@gcot.org).

Do you have a nursery?

There is a nursery for infants – age 4. For more information, or to register a child, email Mary@gcot.org.

What precautions are being taken in the nursery?

We will be taking temperatures of the children and volunteers. Volunteers will wear masks, but children are not required to.

Can children attend the worship service?

Yes! Children are welcome to attend with their parents. They can sit in the auditorium or fellowship hall. Currently, there is a section in the Fellowship Hall with round tables set up. This is a great place for those with young children to sit (it allows you to hem your kids in at a table and gives them a place for drawing etc.).