



Illinois South Conference COVID-19 Response UPDATE #24, February 1, 2022

COVID-19 cases are moving, but in which direction?

Covid number shot up dramatically in some parts of the state, particularly across our Conference in the past few weeks. Omicron blew into town quickly, though it now seems to be dropping just as fast as it came. We've seen Illinois case totals go from over 45,000 in a day to under 10,000 in just a week. On a county basis, numbers are dropping from North to South, with our area still pretty high, but they're starting to move downward.

How is your congregation supposed to react to this? Many, many folks we know have contracted the virus. In response, many of our churches have suspended all in-person worship and events moving everything to online. Some others have been able to continue to worship and gather in person by practicing good protocols and reducing the risk of exposure.

The best guidance we can give is, hang on a little longer, and let the drop in cases reach our area. Staying the course, even two more weeks, might make a big difference. While we are all weary, let us not neglect to practice compassion and kindness by continuing to practice good safety protocols. In our offices at the Conference and for in-person events we sponsor we will continue to wear masks, practice social distancing, and good cleaning practices. In your church, we encourage you to do the same. For in-person worship, social events, meetings, or gatherings that are held indoors, we strongly encourage you to continue to wear masks indoors, practice social distancing and good cleaning practices.

Helpful Information

To keep tabs on Covid in your immediate area, the Illinois Department of Public Health has an excellent map that shows infection rates and hotspots in the state. [Go here](#) to see the most current numbers.

Together in Christ's ministry with you,

Dr. Jill Baker, Conference Moderator

Rev. Christy Eckert, Conference Vice-Moderator

Rev. Steve Boorsma, Conference Secretary

Mr. Dwight Asselmeier, Conference Treasurer

Rev. Shana Johnson, IL South Conference Minister