

**TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK**

**Current Status**  **HIGH**

Since the beginning of the pandemic St. Paul has been using the CDC Guidance to drive our decision making and, to be consistent, that's what we continue to do. The CDC has updated its mask guidelines and is now basing them on Community Levels.  Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at:

* hospital beds being used,
* hospital admissions,
* and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in the area

Your congregational council is continuously monitoring Aiken County. Please note that we are currently ORANGE under the new guidelines. To stay up to date as to where Aiken County is you can go to this link and select South Carolina and Aiken County:

  [**https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html**](%20https%3A/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html)

 **Orange (high) = Masks for all.**

**Yellow (medium) or Green (low) = Vaccinated Masks Optional**

 **Unvaccinated Masks Strongly Encouraged.**

Vaccination is still the best Covid prevention method available, and we encourage everyone to take advantage of this potentially lifesaving gift.  Not only does it protect you, but it reduces the transmission rate for everyone and will get us out of masks even quicker.Thanks for your cooperation over the past 2 years!

Your Congregational Council