



# BridgeWay

COMMUNITY CHURCH

WWW.BRIDGEMWAY-CHURCH.ORG

## INTRODUCTION

As COVID-19 continues to have significant impacts on our lives and community, we, the Elders, feel that it is important to provide some ongoing guidance to our body here at Bridgeway Community Church as it relates to our community and our corporate worship.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are seeking to be a biblically based, Christ-focused, and Holy Spirit led church body. In the context of COVID-19, we are seeking to live this out in the following ways:

- We have been directed to not neglect meeting together (Hebrews 10:25) and we are to love one another (John 13:34). We believe that connecting communities in a COVID-19 context means continuing to seek in-person worship services, small groups, triads, and one on one interaction in a loving and safe manner.
- We believe that being a mission driven community in a COVID-19 context means loving our neighbor by taking precautions for the sake of those around us, especially the weak and vulnerable, not just for our own personal safety and preferences. (Philippians 2:3-4, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Matthew 25:40)
- We believe that being a disciple-making community in a COVID-19 context means honoring those in authority over us. (Romans 13:1) We will submit to God's command and endeavor to comply with appropriate laws and regulations as outlined by our local and regional governments, recognizing that the people developing the requirements are imperfect humans in need of Christ's grace just as much as we are.
- We believe that growing the body of Christ in a COVID-19 context means we will look to God's Word and grace to guide us in situations where potential for disagreement among church members exists. We will seek to prefer other people's needs to our own (Romans 14:14-15), to be willing to suffer wrong rather than potentially damage the church's reputation (1 Corinthians 6:5-7), and to strive to think and act missionally with those who think and act differently than us (1 Corinthians 9:22-23).

## GUIDANCE

1. We as the Elders and the Church shall not put barriers, beyond those outlined in scripture, for participation in the communion of Christ's body.
2. In order to love our brothers, and sisters, and neighbors we ask that if St. Mary's County is in a "High" transmission indicator status (100+ new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days), all people age 5 and up mask while indoors.

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3. If attendees experience symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 10 days – fever, chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle pain, headache, new loss of taste or smell or are awaiting test results for COVID-19 – we ask that you and your household stay home.
4. We ask that any member that contracts COVID-19 to notify leadership so that we can contact anyone who might be directly affected.
5. We recognize that some of our church family are in higher risk situations and attending a larger gathering such as our Sunday service seems unwise. If this is the case, please communicate that to us so that we can work with you to provide the community and care that you need.

Masks may be removed while indoors during the following conditions:

- While actively leading worship
- While actively eating or drinking
- While presenting to a group
- If wearing a mask presents a safety hazard to the wearer. (For example, children ages 4 and under or a medical condition requiring breathing assistance. )

## CONCLUSION

We understand that there are many different opinions and perspectives on COVID-19 and the efforts to mitigate its effects. Despite these differences, it is important that we all seek to treat each other with grace and love, and to avoid quarreling and dissension (Ephesians 4:1-16). If you have any concerns about our guidance, please contact the elders to discuss it directly.

We recognize weariness and fatigue continue to set in. In return, we offer you a hope only Christ can give. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you, and may He bring you peace.

## YOUR BRIDGEMAY ELDER TEAM

### Resources:

Metrics based on St. Mary's County, MD COVID-19 Data Dashboard, found at:

<https://smchd.org/covid-19-data/> OR [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view|Maryland|24037|Risk|community\\_transmission\\_level](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view|Maryland|24037|Risk|community_transmission_level)

Guidance largely drawn from St. Mary's County public schools fall plans, found at:

[LTR\\_FAMILIES\\_BacktoSchool\\_08.11.21.pdf](#)

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