



Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

COVID-19 Safer Standards Chart

February 23, 2021

Click the text in the colored box below to see the full guidance for that level.

Yellow Level

Fewer than 25 cases per 100,000

Orange Level

From 25 to 34.9 cases per 100,000

Red Level

From 35 to 59.9 cases per 100,000

Dark Red Level

60 cases or more per 100,000

No in person gatherings. Worship offered online only (livestream, pre-recorded, Zoom, etc.)

NOTE: Congregations may move to the lower level of guidance (such as from orange to yellow) after 14 days of being under the threshold for that level.

- 12 Step groups will be a case by case with approval of Bishop.
- Funerals, baptisms, and weddings will be case by case with approval of Bishop.
- See below for [Guidelines on Cleaning and Disinfecting](#)

Link to see case counts in your county:

<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

Link to see inpatient bed capacity in your region:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ 47c1cee4d02542bea35bc3324d6cf5e3>

Guidelines on Cleaning and Disinfecting

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads most often by respiratory droplets. When someone infected with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes, or talks, respiratory droplets that contain the virus go into the air and can be breathed in by someone nearby. Less often, the virus can get into your body if it is on a surface that you touch and you then touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. The virus cannot get into the body through your skin.

- **Cleaning removes** dirt and most germs and is usually done with soap and water.
- **Disinfecting kills** most germs. How well it works depends on the type of chemical used and on using the chemical product only as directed on the label.

Routine cleaning and disinfecting

Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched a lot at least daily. Clean between worship services. Items to disinfect include:

- Door knobs and handles
- Stair rails
- Pews
- Handrails
- Light switches

It is not necessary to always use disinfectants as some hard surfaces are rarely touched, for example, floors or bookcases.

Soft surfaces, such as pew cushions, do not need disinfecting or cleaning after every use of the space. When you do clean these surfaces, use products that are approved by the EPA for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 and that are suitable for porous surfaces.

See CDC: Cleaning and Disinfection for Households (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html).

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>



COVID-19 – Yellow Level

February 23, 2021 – for use when case counts are below 25 cases per 100,000 for 14 days

When 7 day average case counts are below 25 per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

	Indoors	Outdoors
Maximum Number of People	<p>Up to twenty-five (25) persons if square footage allows (i.e. 25 persons will not exceed the 10 person per 300 square feet condition)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>If the area of the gathering space exceeds 750 square feet, a number of persons up to ten (10) persons per 300 square feet of gathering space to a maximum of 50.</p> <p><i>All numbers include clergy and lay worship leaders</i></p>	<p>Up to seventy-five (75) persons</p> <p><i>All numbers include clergy and lay worship leaders</i></p>
Duration	<p>One (1) hour or less total in the space</p>	<p>One and a half (1.5) hours total</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p style="text-align: center;">Spacing</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">At least six (6) feet apart (including when at the altar)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Every other pew/row of chairs cordoned off</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do not seat persons directly in front of/behind one another</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">At least ten (10) feet on all sides (masks not required) between individual or pods¹</p> <p style="text-align: center;">At least six (6) feet on all sides (masks required) between individuals or pods</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">One Way and Traffic Flow Markings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Idea is to keep people from crossing paths head-on; arrows in tape on the floor or signs may help direct traffic into and out of nave or worship space, into and out of seating, and similar.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Idea is to keep people from crossing paths head-on; arrows on the ground or signs may help direct traffic into and out of seating and similar.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Online Signups</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Including name and contact information; can also include signing up for seat/placement locations (for example, SignUp Genius)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommended</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If no online signups, names and contact information may be recorded by a designated usher such that only one person touches the pen and paper</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommended</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If no online signups, names and contact information may be recorded by a designated usher such that only one person touches the pen and paper</p>

¹ A “pod” is a small group that has contact with each other essentially exclusively and otherwise practices social distancing.
In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p align="center">Assigned or Recorded Seating/Placement</p> <p>This information is necessary for contact tracing so we may let people know if they may have been exposed to COVID-19.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p> <p align="center">If assigned seating is not included in online signups, a designated usher may record along with names and contact information</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p> <p align="center">If assigned seating is not included in online signups, a designated usher may record along with names and contact information</p>
<p align="center">Masks</p> <p>(The CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks. Church must have masks available for persons who do not bring their own; medical grade masks not required)</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p align="center">Yes, while singing, or if spacing less than ten (10) feet apart</p> <p align="center">No, if spacing greater than ten (10) feet apart; however, persons should have masks to wear as they move around and in the event they move closer than ten (10) feet to each other</p>
<p align="center">Musical Instruments</p>	<p align="center">No wind instruments (other than organ)</p>	<p align="center">No wind instruments</p>
<p align="center">Singing and/or Chanting (including choir practice)</p>	<p align="center">Soloists/single pod of up to five (5) people only</p> <p align="center">Masked, distanced twenty-five (25) feet or more, amplified if possible.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p> <p align="center">Masks required, at least twelve (12) feet between individuals/pods.</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

Eucharist	Yes Received in one kind (hosts)	Yes Received in one kind (hosts).
Passing the Peace/Greetings	Touch free and maintaining at least six (6) feet of distance (waving, bowing, etc.)	Touch free and maintaining at least six (6) feet of distance (waving, bowing, etc.)
Offering Plates	No	No
Hand Sanitizer	To be made available at entrances	To be made available
Printed Materials	Yes BCP, Hymnal, and other reusable printed worship materials may be used.	Yes BCP, Hymnal, and other reusable printed worship materials may be used.

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p>Processions</p>	<p>Yes with no singing in procession</p>	<p>Yes with no singing in procession</p>
<p>Restrooms</p>	<p>Emergency use only Post signs at each restroom detailing safer restroom use and safety precautions as necessary. Otherwise cordoned off</p>	<p>Emergency use only Post signs at each restroom detailing safer restroom use and safety precautions as necessary. Otherwise cordoned off</p>
<p>Food and Beverages</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes Food/drinks must be individually portioned, preferably in closed containers, and set out ahead of time. Masked individuals/pods come up one at a time to get food/drinks, and must keep masks on until they are seated, ten (10) feet apart, and can only be unmasked while eating/drinking.</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p align="center">COVID-19 Contact Tracing Plan</p>	<p align="center">Remind the gathering: Whom to contact at the church if you develop symptoms of COVID-19 and/or test positive within five (5) days after this gathering.</p> <p align="center">When such information is reported, (i) others at the gathering may be notified of potential exposure (names will not be shared), (ii) the public health department of the county in which the parish is located will be contacted, and (iii) Canon Loren Lasch will be notified in accordance with Diocesan policy.</p>	<p align="center">Remind the gathering: Whom to contact at the church if you develop symptoms of COVID-19 and/or test positive within five (5) days after this gathering.</p> <p align="center">When such information is reported, (i) others at the gathering may be notified of potential exposure (names will not be shared) (ii) the public health department of the county in which the parish is located will be contacted, and (iii) Canon Loren Lasch will be notified in accordance with Diocesan policy.</p>
<p align="center">Small Groups (Vestry, Sunday School, Bible Study, etc.)</p>	<p align="center">Yes must follow all guidelines and be approved by Vestry</p>	<p align="center">Yes must follow all guidelines and be approved by Vestry</p>
<p align="center">Nursery</p>	<p align="center">Yes must follow CDC and Safeguarding guidelines and be approved by Vestry (See Diocesan website for CDC guidelines)</p>	<p align="center">Yes must follow CDC and Safeguarding guidelines and be approved by Vestry (See Diocesan website for CDC guidelines)</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

Weddings/Funerals	Yes must follow all guidelines	Yes must follow all guidelines
Third Party Space Use (rentals, community meetings)	Yes must follow all guidelines, sign a liability waiver, and be approved by Vestry	Yes must follow all guidelines, sign a liability waiver, and be approved by Vestry

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>



COVID-19 – Orange Level

February 23, 2021 – for use when case counts are between 25 and 34.9 cases per 100,000

When 7 day average case counts are between 25 and 34.9 per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

	Indoors	Outdoors
Maximum Number of People	<p>Up to 25 persons if square footage allows (i.e. 25 persons will not exceed the 10 person per 300 square feet condition)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>If the area of the gathering space exceeds 750 square feet, a number of persons up to ten (10) persons per 300 square feet of gathering space to a maximum of 50.</p> <p><i>All numbers include clergy and lay worship leaders</i></p>	<p>Up to fifty (50) persons</p> <p><i>All numbers include clergy and lay worship leaders</i></p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p>Spacing</p>	<p>At least six (6) feet apart (including when at the altar)</p> <p>Every other pew/row of chairs cordoned off</p> <p>Do not seat persons directly in front of/behind one another</p>	<p>At least twelve (12) feet on all sides between individual or pods²</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Forty (40) minutes or less total in the space</p>	<p>Up to one (1) hour total</p>
<p>One Way and Traffic Flow Markings</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Idea is to keep people from crossing paths head-on; arrows in tape on the floor or signs may help direct traffic into and out of nave or worship space, into and out of seating, and similar.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Idea is to keep people from crossing paths head-on; arrows on the ground or signs may help direct traffic into and out of seating and similar.</p>

² A “pod” is a small group that has contact with each other essentially exclusively and otherwise practices social distancing.
In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p align="center">Online Signups</p> <p>Including name and contact information; can also include signing up for seat/placement locations (for example, SignUp Genius)</p>	<p align="center">Recommended</p> <p>If no online signups, names and contact information may be recorded by a designated usher such that only one person touches the pen and paper</p>	<p align="center">Recommended</p> <p>If no online signups, names and contact information may be recorded by a designated usher such that only one person touches the pen and paper</p>
<p align="center">Assigned or Recorded Seating/Placement</p> <p>This information is necessary for contact tracing so we may let people know if they may have been exposed to COVID-19.</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p> <p>If assigned seating is not included in online signups, a designated usher may record along with names and contact information</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p> <p>If assigned seating is not included in online signups, a designated usher may record along with names and contact information</p>
<p align="center">Masks</p> <p>Church must have masks available for persons who do not bring their own</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>	<p align="center">Yes</p>
<p align="center">Choir (including in-person practice)</p>	<p align="center">No</p>	<p align="center">No</p>
<p align="center">Musical Instruments</p>	<p align="center">No wind instruments (other than organ)</p>	<p align="center">No wind instruments</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

Singing and/or Chanting	No not safe at this time for anyone	No not safe at this time for anyone
Eucharist	Yes Received in one kind (hosts)	Yes Received in one kind (hosts).
Passing the Peace/Greetings	Touch free and maintaining at least six (6) feet of distance (waving, bowing, etc.)	Touch free and maintaining at least six (6) feet of distance (waving, bowing, etc.)
Offering Plates	No	No

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p>Hand Sanitizer</p>	<p>To be dispensed by a designated usher to each person upon entering the building and again when exiting (required) OR persons may be directed to a hands-free dispenser</p> <p>Also to be available for additional optional use; a designated usher will dispense upon request OR hands-free dispensers may be provided</p>	<p>Use not required, but to be made available (optional); a designated usher will dispense upon request OR persons may be directed to a hands-free dispenser if one is available outdoors</p>
<p>Processions</p>	<p>No not safe at this time</p>	<p>Yes with no singing in procession</p>
<p>Restrooms</p>	<p>Emergency use only</p> <p>Post signs at each restroom detailing safer restroom use and safety precautions as necessary.</p> <p>Otherwise cordoned off</p>	<p>Emergency use only</p> <p>Post signs at each restroom detailing safer restroom use and safety precautions as necessary.</p> <p>Otherwise cordoned off</p>
<p>COVID-19 Contact Tracing Plan</p>	<p>Remind the gathering:</p> <p>Whom to contact at the church if you develop symptoms of COVID-19 and/or</p>	<p>Remind the gathering:</p> <p>Whom to contact at the church if you develop symptoms of COVID-19 and/or</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

	<p>test positive within five (5) days after this gathering.</p> <p>When such information is reported, (i) others at the gathering may be notified of potential exposure (names will not be shared), (ii) the public health department of the county in which the parish is located will be contacted, and (iii) Canon Loren Lasch will be notified in accordance with Diocesan policy.</p>	<p>test positive within five (5) days after this gathering.</p> <p>When such information is reported, (i) others at the gathering may be notified of potential exposure (names will not be shared) (ii) the public health department of the county in which the parish is located will be contacted, and (iii) Canon Loren Lasch will be notified in accordance with Diocesan policy.</p>
<p>Third Party Space Use (rentals, community meetings)</p>	<p>No unless approved by Bishop</p>	<p>No unless approved by Bishop</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>



COVID-19 – Red Level

February 23, 2021 – for use when case counts are between 35 and 59.9 cases per 100,000

When 7 day average case counts are between 35 and 59.9 per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

	Outdoors Only
Maximum Number of People	Up to fifty (50) persons <i>All numbers include clergy and lay worship leaders</i>
Spacing	At least twelve (12) feet on all sides between individual or pods ³
Duration	Up to one (1) hour total
One Way and Traffic Flow Markings	Yes Idea is to keep people from crossing paths head-on; arrows on the ground or signs may help direct traffic into and out of seating and similar.

³ A “pod” is a small group that has contact with each other essentially exclusively and otherwise practices social distancing.

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p style="text-align: center;">Online Signups</p> <p>Including name and contact information; can also include signing up for seat/placement locations (for example, SignUp Genius)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommended</p> <p>If no online signups, names and contact information may be recorded by a designated usher such that only one person touches the pen and paper</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Assigned or Recorded Seating/Placement</p> <p>This information is necessary for contact tracing so we may let people know if they may have been exposed to COVID-19.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p> <p>If assigned seating is not included in online signups, a designated usher may record along with names and contact information</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Masks</p> <p>Church must have masks available for persons who do not bring their own; medical grade masks not required</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Choir (including in-person practice)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Musical Instruments</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No wind instruments</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Singing and/or Chanting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No not safe at this time for anyone</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p style="text-align: center;">Eucharist</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes Received in one kind (hosts).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Passing the Peace/Greetings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Touch free and maintaining at least six (6) feet of distance (waving, bowing, etc.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Offering Plates</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Hand Sanitizer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Use not required, but to be made available (optional); a designated usher will dispense upon request OR persons may be directed to a hands-free dispenser if one is available outdoors</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Processions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Yes with no singing in procession</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p style="text-align: center;">Restrooms</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Emergency use only</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Post signs at each restroom detailing safer restroom use and safety precautions as necessary.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Otherwise cordoned off</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Contact Tracing Plan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Remind the gathering:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Whom to contact at the church if you develop symptoms of COVID-19 and/or test positive within five (5) days after this gathering.</p> <p>When such information is reported, (i) others at the gathering may be notified of potential exposure (names will not be shared) (ii) the public health department of the county in which the parish is located will be contacted, and (iii) Canon Loren Lasch will be notified in accordance with Diocesan policy.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Third Party Space Use (rentals, community meetings)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No unless approved by Bishop</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>



COVID-19 - Dark Red Level

February 23, 2021 – for use when case counts are above 60 cases per 100,000

When 7 day average case counts are above 60 per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

	Livestream or Pre-recording
Maximum Number of People	Up to ten (10) persons <i>Preferably fewer</i>
Spacing	At least six (6) feet on all sides between individual or pods ⁴
Masks Church must have masks available for persons who do not bring their own	Yes
Musical Instruments	No wind instruments
Singing and/or Chanting	No UNLESS only one person present or <i>all</i> persons present live in the same household.

⁴ A “pod” is a small group that has contact with each other essentially exclusively and otherwise practices social distancing.

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

Eucharist	Yes Received in one kind (hosts).
Passing the Peace/Greetings	Touch free and maintaining at least six (6) feet of distance (waving, bowing, etc.)
Offering Plates	No
Hand Sanitizer	Use not required, but to be made available (optional); a designated usher will dispense upon request OR persons may be directed to a hands-free dispenser if one is available outdoors
Processions	Yes with no singing in procession
Restrooms	Emergency use only Post signs at each restroom detailing safer restroom use and safety precautions as necessary. Otherwise cordoned off

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

<p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Contact Tracing Plan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Remind the livestream worship team: If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 and/or test positive within five (5) days after this gathering report this to the others on the team and to Canon Loren Lasch in accordance with Diocesan policy.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Third Party Space Use (rentals, community meetings)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No unless approved by Bishop</p>

In effect as of February 23, 2021

The changes in level are triggered by the 14 day average case counts per 100,000 at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>