



**The Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida
GENERAL COVID GUIDELINES
(Effective 8/19/21)**

COVID UPDATE - August 12, 2021 (reported 8/13 with next report out 8/20)

New Cases in Florida: Daily Average - 21,169

Deaths in Florida: Daily Average - 121.7

CFL Counties	New Case Positivity July 30 - August 5	New Cases on August 12	New COVID-Related Hospital Admissions on August 12
Brevard	22.6	550	58
Citrus	23.1	116	42
Hardee	30.1	23	49
Highlands	21.9	74	39
Indian River	19.8	136	41
Lake	22.0	302	70
Marion	27.0	342	56
Okeechobee	25.1	30	31
Orange	18.5	1,261	65
Osceola	20.3	351	37
Polk	26.3	815	54
Seminole	22.5	382	60
St Lucie	23.9	268	38
Sumter	17.5	61	59
Volusia	23.6	466	76
	Average: 22.95	Total: 5,177	Total: 775

Effective immediately, the following COVID-19 Guidelines are applicable in the Diocese of Central Florida:

GUIDELINES

- Mask wearing is expected for all persons when indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- Return to 6' social distancing and blocking off alternate pews.
- Family groups may still sit together.
- Clergy are to remain masked except during the sermon (if the pulpit is 6' or greater from where others are seated).
- Clergy are to remain gloved or use tongs or other dispenser during distribution of communion (pre-intincted wafers or plain wafers only, as the chalice is restricted solely to the celebrant).
- Clergy should be the last to receive communion before the post communion prayer.
- For all church meetings, including church school, youth groups and social groups, 6' social distancing and masks (when indoors) are required.
- All singers must be 6' apart and masked.
- It is suggested that clergy take communion out from the chancel to all those seated in the pews/chairs and remain socially distanced in the congregation rather than having people come up to the altar rail to receive communion. Most congregations have had difficulty maintaining social distancing when people are lined up for communion.
- Only individual bottles of water or canned drinks and prepackaged foods may be served.
- No exchange of the peace.
- No passing of collection plates in the pews.
- Frequently touched objects: tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, pew ends, desks, phones, computer and musical keyboards, toilets, flushing handles, faucets and sinks should be cleaned regularly with COVID-19 approved cleaning/disinfecting supplies. For a list go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>.

EXPOSURE

If you have been in close contact for 15 minutes or more or have been exposed to someone who tests COVID-19 positive:

- You should be in quarantine for 5 days.
- You should receive a COVID-19 test on the fifth day to determine exposure.
- If negative, you may resume your normal duties, return to work, etc.

If you test positive for COVID-19 on the fifth day after exposure:

- You should remain quarantined for a total of 14 days (this includes the 4 days before your positive COVID test).
- You are safe to resume your normal duties and return to work on the 11th day after a positive test.

The Department of Health does not recommend COVID-19 testing after you have tested positive as you are likely to test positive for several weeks or months.

If you have any specific questions about COVID-19 cases, decisions for closure or guidance, please contact Canon Scott Holcombe at 321-525-2366, or email him at sholcombe@cfdiocese.org.