



## DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA COVID-19 GUIDELINES effective January 5, 2022

Florida State Covid cases are on the rise!- week of 12/3 – 13,530 2.6% Positivity  
 12/10 – 29,514 5.3% Positivity  
 12/17 - 128,186 13.9% Positivity  
 12/24 – 298,455 26.5% Positivity

SOURCE: [http://ww11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/\\_partners/covid19\\_report\\_archive/covid19-data/covid19\\_data\\_latest.pdf](http://ww11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/_partners/covid19_report_archive/covid19-data/covid19_data_latest.pdf)

Week of 12/3-9/2021				Week of 12/24 – 12/30/2021			
	Total cases By county	New case positivity	Cases per 100K population	Total cases By county	New case positivity	Cases per 100K population*	
Brevard	158	2.3	50.1	4,979	23.8	814	
Citrus	55	2.3	36.3	375	8.8	247.8	
Highlands	61	3.7	58.0	622	20.6	591.8	
Indian River	76	3.2	47.3	659	18.6	410.1	
Marion	146	2.4	39.2	1,543	17.4	414.3	
Okeechobee	18	3.3	42.4	209	25.1	492.4	
Orange	1,002	3.3	68.8	21,009	31.6	1,441.5	
Polk	374	2.7	52.0	7,524	26.1	1,045.5	
Seminole	149	3.1	54.1	5,274	30.6	1,083.4	
St Lucie	131	2.3	40.7	2,763	29.0	857.7	
Sumter	56	2.3	40.8	385	11.9	280.4	
Volusia	365	4.3	66.1	3,939	22.4	713.2	
Osceola	291	3.1	72.5	5,751	29.6	1,432.0	
Hardee	5	1.4	18.1	150	23.0	543.8	
Lake	247	3.6	65.4	2,831	23.0	749.6	

\*All positive Cases per 100K- over 100- are deemed HIGH TRANSMISSION RATE

In light of the high transmission rates in our 15 counties of Central Florida the following guidelines go into effect immediately!

### COVID GUIDELINES

- Masks are mandatory indoors (regardless of vaccination status) effective immediately and will remain in place until your county has less than 10% new case positivity.
- The Celebrant and those serving at the altar must remain masked from the setting of the altar through the consecration and distribution of the Sacrament.

- The celebrant and any person distributing the communion elements shall wear disposable gloves.
- Those assigned to read lessons, lead the prayers of the people, and the preacher may remove their mask when they are speaking during their part in the service (if there are no people sitting in the pews/seats within 6 feet of the speaker.)
- At the exchange of the peace there shall be no physical contact (embrace, handshake, etc.)
- An intinction only chalice still may be offered to the congregation.
- The passing of the collection plate in the pew may continue.
- If desired, food and beverage service may continue. Persons should be masked when not actively eating or drinking.
- Social distancing has been proven to be less effective as a preventive measure than previously thought. There will be no mandatory distances set for indoor services.
- Private communions will be discontinued for the time being to protect the recipients, the lay eucharistic visitors, and the clergy.
- Churches must still provide masks and hand sanitizer in the common areas.
- Clergy may impose stricter sanctions than Diocesan COVID-19 protocols.

#### QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

- If you are in close contact for 15 minutes or more with person X who tests positive, you should remain quarantined for 5 days from person X's positive test. If you are exposed to someone who tested positive, you should be tested on the 5<sup>th</sup> day after your exposure.
- If your test is negative- you may resume your normal activities.
- If your test is positive- you must quarantine for 5 additional days, and remain masked for the next additional 5 days.
- If you tested positive for Covid, there is no need to be tested again for at least 3 months. You may continue to test positive for 90 days even though you are not contagious.
- If you are in a crowded outdoor settings and in close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated, you should remain masked.
- If you have a condition or taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may not be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. You should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask, until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.
- If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from all variants and prevent possibly spreading Covid to others, please wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission. (ALL counties in the Diocese of Central Florida are in high transmission areas!)
- **If you have any comments or questions please contact Canon Scott Holcombe at [sholcombe@cfdiocese.org](mailto:sholcombe@cfdiocese.org)**