

May 17, 2022

Friends, it will come as no surprise to you that our Covid numbers are on the rise. We have been over our 5% 7-day positivity threshold for more than two weeks (and over 10% for more than a week.) I will add anecdotally that at no point during the pandemic have I had as many people that I know contract Covid.

The latest variant of Covid does not seem as severe but seems far more transmissible.

We are, therefore, recommending churches increase their Covid protocols. This may look different in different churches. If you are not requiring masks, consider requiring mask again. If you are singing, consider discontinuing singing for a while. If you are not distancing, encourage distancing again. (And perhaps do all three.) Whatever your church is currently doing, we encourage you to add at least one additional safety protocol at this time.

As for the Conference, the Conference Office will remain closed and all Conference Ministries, Mission Groups and Committees are to continue to meet virtually. At this time, we are not proposing any date when we expect this to change. Travel for Conference staff remains at their discretion.

**Peace,
Gordon**