



**The Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida  
GENERAL COVID GUIDELINES  
(Effective 8/17/21)**

**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**

<b>CFL Counties</b>	<b>New Case Positivity July 30 - August 5</b>	<b>New Cases on August 12</b>	<b>New COVID-Related Hospital Admissions on August 12</b>
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

**Bishop Brewer reports that we are returning to the [January 2021 guidelines](#) with the following modifications based on scientific evidence gleaned over the past year:**

- Mask wearing is expected for all when indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- Return to 6' social distancing and blocking off alternate pews.
- Occupancy is not to exceed 50% capacity.
- 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.
- No church school, youth groups or social groups larger than 10 are permitted to meet.
- 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>.
- Please check with your medical professional for guidance regarding whether or not you should consider a COVID booster.

- The CDC recommends fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of [substantial or high transmission](#).
- The CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at [increased risk for severe disease](#) from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.
- The CDC added a recommendation that fully vaccinated people who have come into [close contact](#) with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and to wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- 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 (including the 4 days before your positive COVID 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. You are safe to resume your normal duties and return to work on the 11<sup>th</sup> day after a positive test.

**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](mailto:sholcombe@cfdiocese.org).**