



## The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

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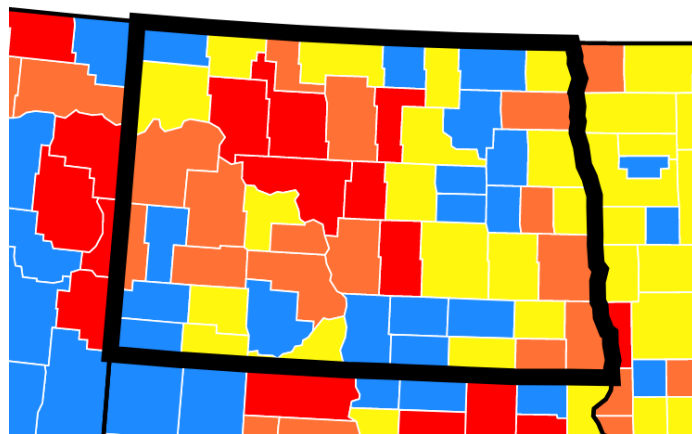
### COVID-19 Protocol – Updated August 2, 2021

**Update:** The pandemic continues, and variants complicate the picture. Most troublesome is the delta variant, which spreads easier. Despite our fatigue from masks and other measures preventing spread we are still in a pandemic. The CDC issued an update of their recommendations on July 27. It can be viewed here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

A small portion of fully vaccinated people may still get a COVID infection. The infection is often milder than what an unvaccinated individual experiences. Vaccinated individuals who get COVID are infected and can spread the virus to other susceptible people. Because of this **the CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings when they are in areas of substantial or high transmission.** Unvaccinated individuals should continue to mask and distance as they have been.

Maps showing the level of community transmission are shown at this CDC website:

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> The clip below shows current susceptibility in our counties. Red is high and orange is substantial community transmission. The number of cases change, and the map is updated by 8 PM daily.



#### Level of Community Transmission

High

Substantial

Moderate

Low

Monday July 26 to  
Sun August 1, 2021  
Change compared to  
previous 7-day

Our recommendations for the Diocese of North Dakota continues to be that each church needs to make decisions on how best to protect their congregation when they gather. Know the number of unvaccinated individuals at the service and the local level of community transmission. Everyone at indoor services should mask if community transmission is substantial or high.

We are called to love God and love our neighbor, including the weak and vulnerable. Each of us must consider what is best for themselves and their community. Our other recommendations should be viewed in consideration of the local decision for vaccinated to be masked.

Vaccination is still the most important tool to prevent transmission and bring this pandemic to an end. Encourage vaccination. Everyone should make their own decision about receiving vaccine with their health care provider.

Please direct questions to the diocesan COVID-19 task force as we monitor the situation.

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Matthew Cherian, Steve Smith