

August 18, 2021

MONITORING COVID TRANSMISSION IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Health Advisory Panel convened on Monday evening, August 16, to assess the continuing surge in COVID cases due primarily to the spread of the Delta variant.

On the same day the panel convened, the Virginia Department of Health updated its reporting metrics. A particularly informative Community Transmission tab at the [Virginia Department of Health](#) website provides access to pertinent information in each locality. The panel encourages congregations to take advantage of this resource: [COVID-19 Level of Community Transmission](#).

As stated in the Delta Variant Guidelines released by Bishop Haynes and the Health Advisory Panel two weeks ago, the Diocese is not imposing any diocesan-wide mandates at this time. Congregations are encouraged to monitor the transmission risk in their area and to mandate indoor masking if the transmission risk is high. Congregations are also encouraged to monitor percent positivity rates in their areas and to consider what further restrictions they might impose if the percent positivity rate rises above 8%. At the very least, indoor masking should be strongly encouraged if not mandated during public worship.

Please contact the Diocesan Office (757-423-8287) if you have questions or desire assistance in establishing appropriate protocols in your particular locality.