

COVID Benchmarks for St. Paul's Gatherings

as of November 17, 2020

Background

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ebb and flow in our community and country, the Life Together Working Group has acted to develop a set of benchmark metrics for making decisions for congregational and community gatherings. Creating this type of plan has been encouraged by our Delaware-Maryland Synod Bishop's Office, and has been developed using examples from neighboring Lutheran Churches.

The benchmarks below would be superseded by any governmental orders from local, state, or national authorities. These provisions do not apply to our St. Paul's Preschool.

Benchmarks for Ceasing In-Person Gatherings

Any one of the following benchmarks being triggered would immediately suspend in-person gatherings at St. Paul's, without further Congregational Council action:

1. Any attendee of a worship service or community event testing positive for Covid-19.
2. A Baltimore County COVID-19 positivity rate of 5.0% or higher.¹
3. Hospitals in Baltimore County reaching capacity.
4. Governmental leaders re-establishing restrictions that had been relaxed.

Resuming In-Person Gatherings After a Closure

Once any applicable governmental orders have been lifted, and 14 days have passed after a triggered benchmark(s) has returned to an acceptable level, St. Paul's Congregational Council may act at its next meeting to resume any suspended in-person gatherings or use of space on our campus.

¹ Statistical data would be drawn from the Baltimore County COVID-19 Response Hub: <https://bc-coronavirus-response-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com>