



# A Congregational Conversation with the Covid Advisory Taskforce

- Latest Plans and challenges for coming back together
- Saturday Nov 6<sup>th</sup> , 2021 at 3 pm, via Zoom
- Sunday Nov 7<sup>th</sup> , 2021 at 11:30 am at Crystal Lake Park, in-person

# Welcome and Meeting outline

Meeting host, Rev. Karen Bush

Welcome and Introduction – 5 minutes (Rev. Karen Bush)

The Covid Advisory Group; current guidelines and planned modifications – 15 minutes (Brian McDermott – BOT liaison)

Small group break-out sessions; questions for discussion and listening – 20 minutes (Rev. Sally Fritsche)

Circle back; spokesperson for each group shares conversation with the whole – 10 minutes

Wrap-up and next steps – 5 minutes (Rev. Sally Fritsche)

# Covid Advisory Taskforce

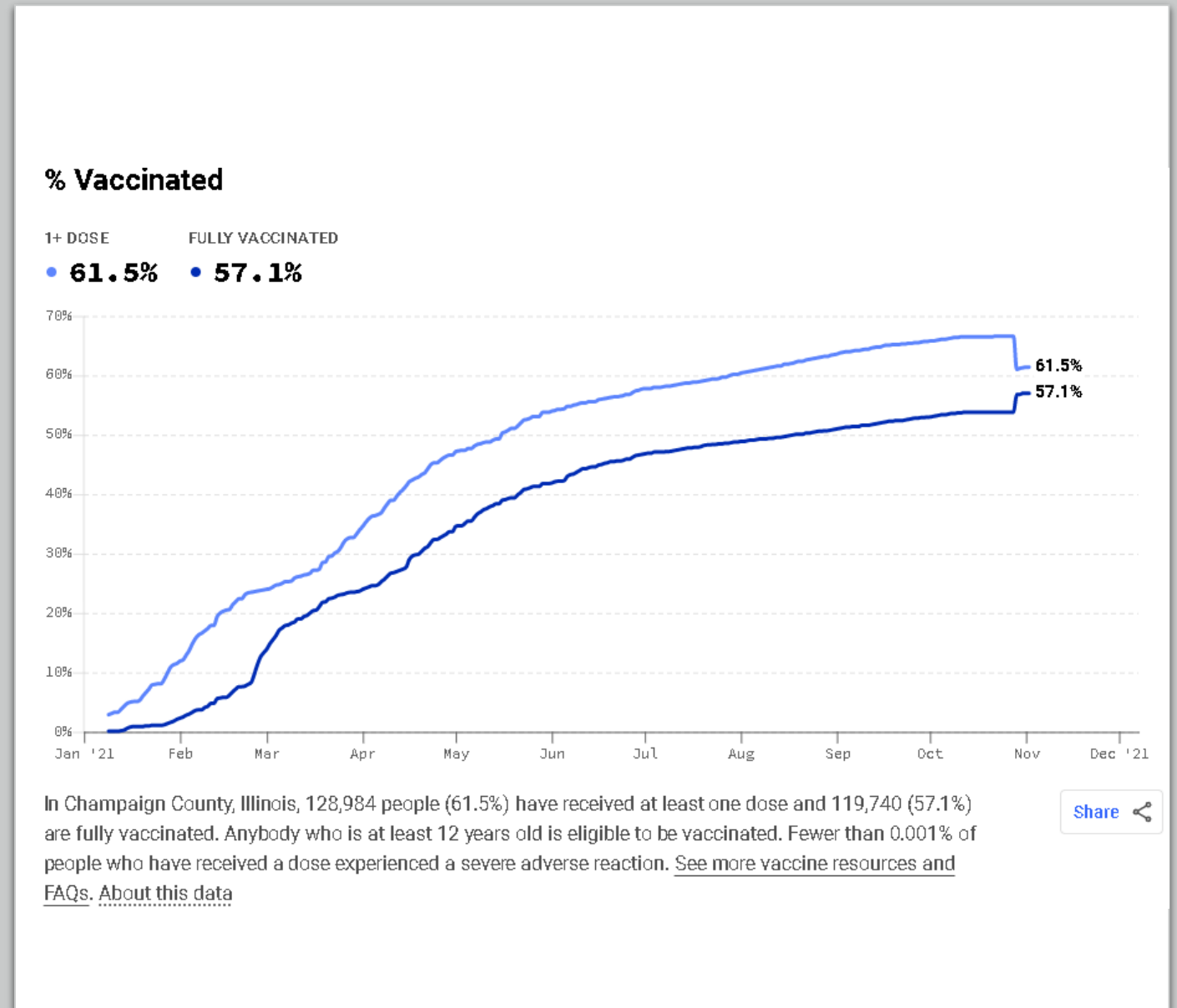
- Meeting since start of the Pandemic; joint staff and lay-led team
- Goal: Looking for best possible science-based guidance for our congregation's safety during the pandemic



- Members:
  - Staff: Rev. Florence Caplow, Rev. Sally Fritsche, Rev. KB, Tim Voelker (Facilities), Adrienne Summerlot and Rose St. Clair (REE), Other current and past staff in addition
  - Lay Leaders: Janet Revell Barrett (Worship), ), Peggy Patten (Hospitality Teams) Jerry Cardin (Facilities emeritus ), Dan Urban (BOT Liaison and beyond), Deb Rugg (REE), Kathleen Robbins (Wisdom guru), Dr. Terry England (Infectious disease expertise), Dr. Kim Kramer (medical expertise) Brian McDermott (current BOT liaison), and others

# Our current guidelines: based on specific metrics in place since June 2021

- Data-based decisions based on the Covid Act Now provisions
- [https://covidactnow.org/us/illinois-il/county/champaign\\_county/?s=25031418](https://covidactnow.org/us/illinois-il/county/champaign_county/?s=25031418)
- Covid Act Now Metrics: (Champaign County)
  - Daily new cases
  - Infection Rate
  - Positive test Rate
- We do not have a vaccination rate metric
- **We applaud the recent approval of vaccines for children 5 and older**



# Current Criteria for in-person Worship and REE

## Worship Services

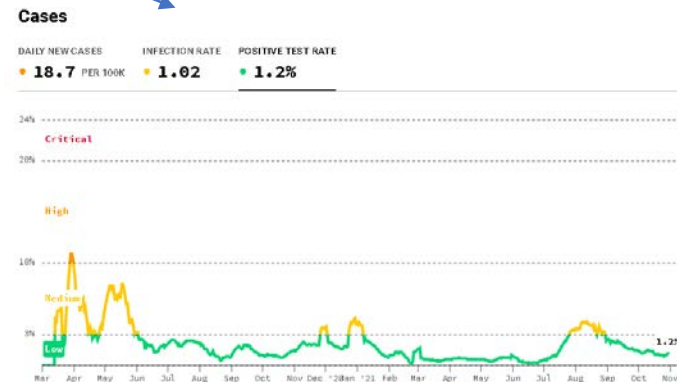
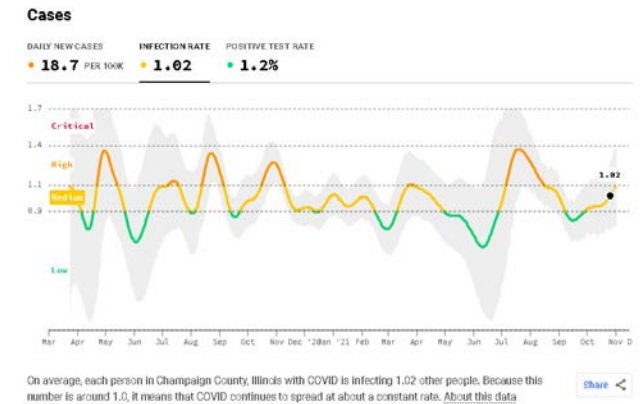
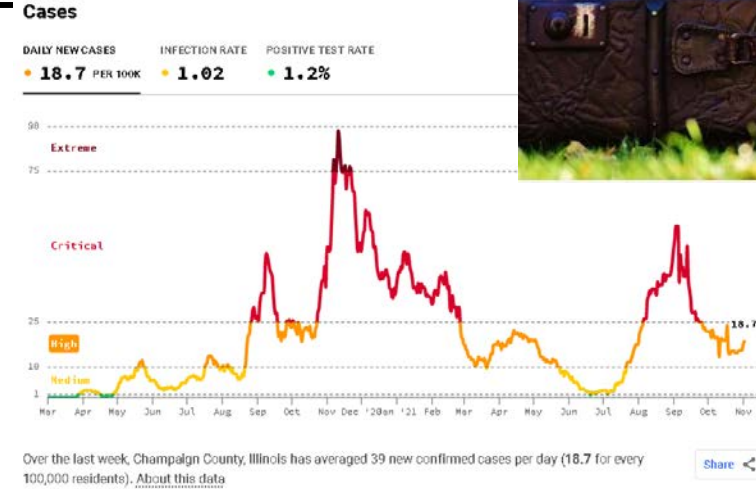
- Need to be hybrid (in-person and on-line), in order to give all of us and any visitors the ability to make their own choices about safety
- We will not mandate vaccination as a condition of attending services in person – we will assume we may have some un-vaccinated attendees
- Champaign County needs 4 weeks of continuous being at the “**Green**” level on Covid Act Now to begin limited in-person services with safety protocols
  - ***Note: the return to in-person worship is much later than returning to the church for small groups – that can happen as soon as we reach a “Yellow” status on Covid Act Now***
- Any jump to a higher risk level immediately re-sets us back to on-line services

## In-person REE

- Champaign County needs to be “**Green**” on the Covid Act Now criteria
- Volunteers need to be vaccinated if working with the children

# What does being “Green” mean?

- Confirmed Daily new cases
  - 1 or less per 100,000 population
- Infection Rate (how many others are infected by the avg Covid -positive resident)
  - 0.9 or less
- Positive test Rate
  - Less than 3%



# Covid Taskforce's assessment of our reopening criteria after the advent of vaccinations and Delta variant

- **Too conservative**

- Particularly the daily new case rate criteria – 2 new people with Covid in the whole of Champaign County drops us out of green back to yellow

- **Too sensitive**

- We've only had 1 green day since April 2020

# Adjustments to Re-Opening plans

## (Highlights)

### Worship Services

- Champaign County needs **3 4** weeks of continuous “**Yellow Green**” on Covid Act Now to begin limited in-person services with safety protocols
  - ***We will return to online services & RE if the risk level moves to orange or red for three consecutive weeks or if a sudden change in local COVID transmission dictates a move to all remote.***
  - ~~Any jump to a higher risk level immediately re-sets us back to on-line services~~

### In-person REE

- Champaign County needs to be “**YellowGreen**” on the Covid Act Now criteria
- ***For Groups age 5 and older:***
  - ***Small events, programs, and classes with no more than 20 fully vaccinated participants (or up to 50% of a room’s capacity), including program leaders, volunteers, youth/children, and family members can take place in the building Monday-Sunday. Masks must be worn in the building.***
- Volunteers need to be vaccinated if working with the children

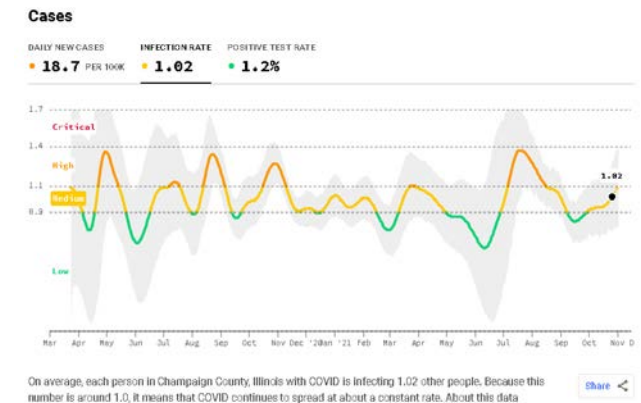
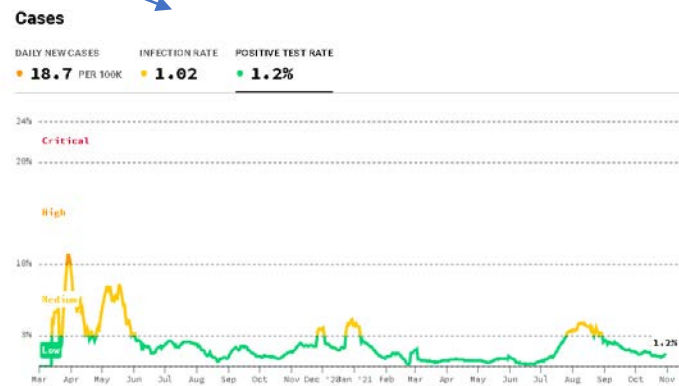
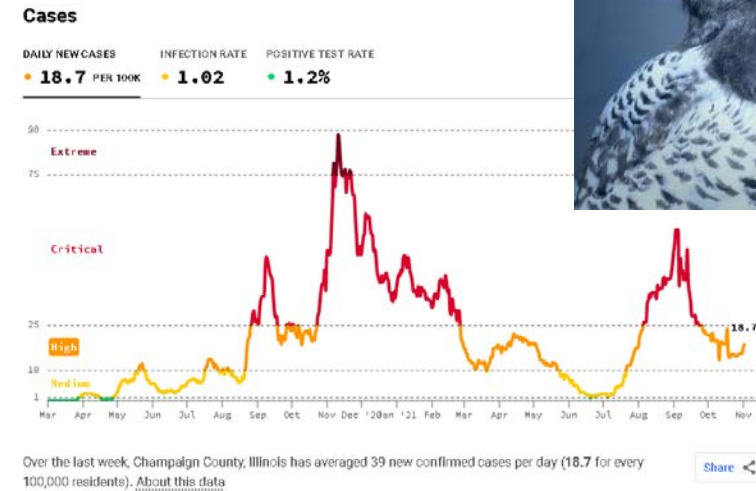


# What does COVID Act Now's Yellow Risk Level Mean?

- Confirmed Daily new cases
  - **10** or less per 100,000 population

- Infection Rate (how many others are infected by the avg Covid -positive resident)
  - **1.1** or less

- Positive test Rate
  - Less than **10%**



# Under Discussion

Taskforce is considering further changes to criteria  
– is using Covid Act Now just too restrictive?

We are debating switching to Champaign-Urbana  
Public Health District's Guidance

- This would be a major overhaul of our reopening framework, and we'd need to make sure any potential transition is handled safely for all members of our church
- We are actively evaluating this as a group and will communicate any changes to our congregation

Reminder: all changes need Ministerial, Staff, and  
BOT approval

# What is needed to reopen? (What, more?)

Repair of elevator to ensure accessibility – **in progress**

Custodial Scheduling – **in planning**

AV in place for hybrid worship – **in planning**

- Need live displays in Sanctuary (And Fellowship Hall?) for recorded portions

Volunteers to assume new tasks (Welcomers, Ushers, etc.) – **in planning**

Admin Support of Limited capacity Scheduling in place – **in progress**

- Sign-up for services and meetings, no back-to-back room scheduling

Plans finalized for hybrid, limited capacity services at beginning – **in progress**

- Maybe go-slow, start at 1-2 Sundays a month (No singing, no coffee at beginning)
- **Patience please!**, this will be a learning process!

Your Feedback in small groups – **next**



And now – on to small group sessions. . .

# Questions for Discussions

Should UUCUC plan separate REE programming for vaccinated and unvaccinated children & youth, or plan on every gathering being mixed vaccine status?

A “second service” on Sunday afternoons or Wednesday evenings could be organized, screening the YouTube video in the sanctuary for anyone (up to 60 people) who couldn’t make it to the morning service. Is there interest in this second service? Would you be willing to help make it happen?

For those participating in online Fellowship Hour, would you like it to continue immediately following the service, or at a different time?



Supplemental  
material

# The whole kit and caboodle of the re-opening guidelines

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XLNzMdOK7\\_Lr02uymQ1qpn5oaXSvfZ-mj9L9\\_JFfYo/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XLNzMdOK7_Lr02uymQ1qpn5oaXSvfZ-mj9L9_JFfYo/edit)