

Hey friends,

As I emailed you last week about the continuing rise in covid cases in our area, I emphasized three main things:

- Cases and hospitalizations are rising steeply in our county, even while deaths do not appear to be growing.
- For those who have not been able to be vaccinated and are an "at-risk" category, we have begun to do video streaming of our services again (we were hoping to do this on our [YouTube](#) channel last week, but were unable to get it going. If it doesn't work again this Sunday, check our Facebook account).
- We encouraged everyone else to continue to prioritize gathering for in-person worship.

At the end of the email I asked everyone to consider wearing a mask to our service. This is not something we are mandating--for that matter, we have never *mandated* wearing masks, but have simply asked. We again are asking you to take this into consideration given the rising hospitalizations in our county. A few weeks ago, our hospitals were at 13% of their capacity being used by people with covid symptoms; when I emailed you last week they were at 18%; they currently are at 20%. At a [recent press conference](#) a representative at Kadlec informed people that our healthcare system here "is totally overwhelmed" and explained that there is currently a wait-list to get a hospital bed, so now people who go to the hospital, regardless of whether or not they are going because of covid, are not being able to be helped right away.

So, if you are able, consider wearing a mask; if your conscience permits, consider getting vaccinated. No matter what, let's gather together to remind one another of the most central, and bedrock truths we need to walk through times like this: the good news of Jesus Christ.

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Grace and Peace,

- Marc Sims

*Teaching Pastor*

Quinault Baptist Church

[www.qbc.org](http://www.qbc.org)