

A Message from Lisa Allgood (state-specific portions omitted)
May 13, 2021

Pfizer's vaccine is now approved for 12 and up, and so schools and other open vaccination clinics will start targeting that age group. Vaccines for as young as 6 months are still in clinical trials but could be available by fall. The mRNA vaccines in particular have been shown to prevent transmission of virus (after full vaccination) far better than predicted, and infection rate of fully vaccinated people right now is at about 0.008% - extremely low.

Globally, India, Brazil, and parts of Africa are a mess – not so much because they have low vaccination rates, although they do, but largely because they opened up way too early. The India variant is of special concern (it's a triple mutation, is more highly infectious, and causes significant disease), doesn't appear to be fully covered by vaccinations, and it's circulating in the US as well as globally. Taiwan and Singapore, who believed they had eliminated the virus, have started to spike and parts of each city have been in lock down.

So – what to do at church?

First, understand the virus is NOT gone – we will be dealing with this for some time to come, and epidemiologists have declared this to be an endemic virus – it will circulate in humans probably forever in some way. Hopefully more and more people will get vaccinated, but the hoped-for “herd immunity” will not be attained as long as we have adult vaccination rates of 30-40%. And we proved at the beginning of the pandemic that large crowds of people un-masked can become super-spreader events even if only one person is shedding virus.

Second, while CDC has relaxed mask guidance for outdoors, they have not done so for all venues. CDC is still stating that masks should be required indoors with larger crowds and people with whom you do not live.

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Yes, the world is opening back up. But I ask you to prayerfully consider all we've learned and experienced over the past 15 months, consider some of the statistics I've shared on the high degree of significant permanent damage this virus does to all organs of the body, and consider what it will take to take care of each other. Go slowly – be safe. We need you.

Blessings always!



Lisa Allgood

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