

GSLC In-Person Worship Guidelines

This document defines the information that will be considered by the Senior Pastor and BoSL for determining when to begin or suspend in-person worship services at GSLC. The decision will be based on a combination of objective health statistics in the Northern Virginia region and the subjective judgment regarding the overall risk to GSLC's staff and members. The judgment of the BoSL and Senior Pastor will take precedence over the objective health criteria.

The source of health data is the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. They provide a COVID-19 metrics dashboard for individual Northern Virginia counties (Fairfax, Loudoun, Alexandria, Arlington, and Prince William) and aggregate data for the Northern Virginia Region (<https://www.novaregiondashboard.com/cases-dashboard>). The metrics include cases, deaths, hospitalizations, testing and positivity by day and a 7-day moving average. Because many of our members are likely to travel within the region during the week, the aggregate regional data will be used.

The criteria for re-opening worship are:

1. A continuous 14 day period with steady or decreasing number of cases as measured by the 7-day moving average and below 100 new daily cases at the end of the 14 day period. An increase in 7-day moving average of new cases for 3 or more continuous days resets the 14 day clock
2. A continuous 14 day period with test positivity below 5% as measured by the 7-day moving average. An increase for 3 or more continuous days resets the 14 day clock
3. Agreement by the BoSL and Senior Pastor that the risk of conducting worship services (including the use of protective health measures as described by the GSLC Health Guidelines) is reasonably low and acceptable to the affected individuals. The Senior Pastor will coordinate with and represent the office staff, musicians, and worship leaders.
4. For the initial re-opening, a suitable worship space needs to be available for use. This means that either:
 - a. The new equipment needs to be installed in the sanctuary to facilitate livestreaming worship services and decrease take down/set up time for pre-recorded videos, OR
 - b. A new home for the South Lakes Food Pantry needs to be established to allow for use of the Fellowship Hall (e.g., determine if the preschool area of our church is acceptable).

The criteria for suspending worship are:

1. A continuous 7 day period with an increase in the metrics defined in 1) and 2) above.
2. An active case of COVID-19 in the worship staff that potentially exposed worship participants.