

## HCT Article for Crooks Memorial E-News 10 February 2021

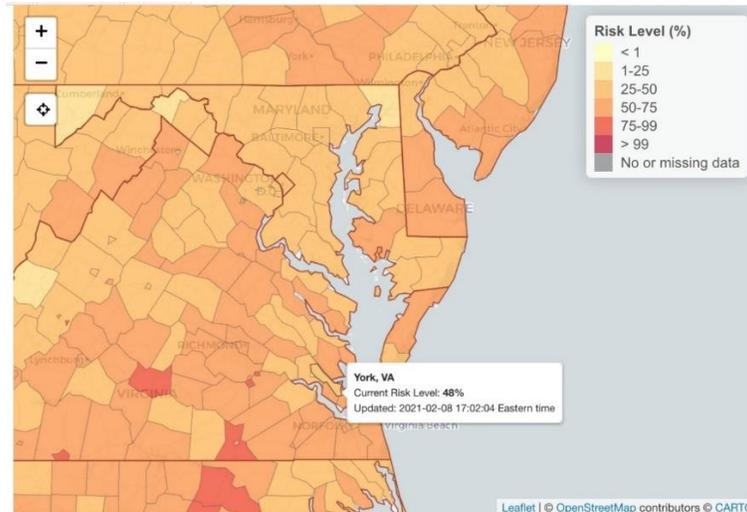
Your Healthy Church Team continues to meet at least twice per month since its formation in May 2020. Our purpose has been two-fold. First, we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and guidance from the Virginia Annual Conference and health officials to continually assess when it would be safe for our congregation to engage in various in-person activities. Second, we have developed and achieved York River District approval of a number of individual plans that enable Crooks Memorial to conduct in-person activities that are consistent with the health and safety provisions of the Virginia Annual Conference Technical Assistance Manual.

You likely recall from my previous updates and in the communications from Pastor Lisa that over the course of the summer and fall of 2020 we achieved approval of our plans for outdoor in-person small group gatherings, indoor in-person small group gatherings in the Fellowship Hall, funeral services in the Sanctuary, and outdoor communion services. All of these in-person activities must still abide by the Conference's strict protocols of Stage 2 that require attendees to register in advance, complete a health acknowledgement, wear masks, maintain social distancing, and sit only in designated seating areas, but they are meaningful steps towards maintaining our in-person connection at the church. The two outdoor communion services conducted in September and October 2020 are noteworthy examples of how we implemented our approved plans for in-person activities in a COVID-safe manner. The small group gatherings that have been held in the Fellowship Hall and other activities such as the collection and delivery of grocery items for the Food Pantry, the Advent Kit pick-up, and the opportunities to say farewell to church members are other examples of how our plans have been implemented to maintain a degree of in-person connection despite the COVID threat.

On 13 January 2021, the Healthy Church Team achieved the approval of our District Superintendent, Pastor Kim, of the Crooks Memorial Guidelines for In-Person Worship (Indoors). This is a comprehensive document that addresses all the aspects of how we will safely conduct an in-person worship service in our Sanctuary and specifies the actions and provisions attendees will need to follow so we can conduct the service in accordance with the Conference requirements. We developed this plan and sought its approval now so we will be ready for whenever the COVID risk abates enough to allow us to resume in-person worship in the sanctuary. Contact me, Pastor Lisa, or Kristie Brookshire if you would like an electronic copy of this document.

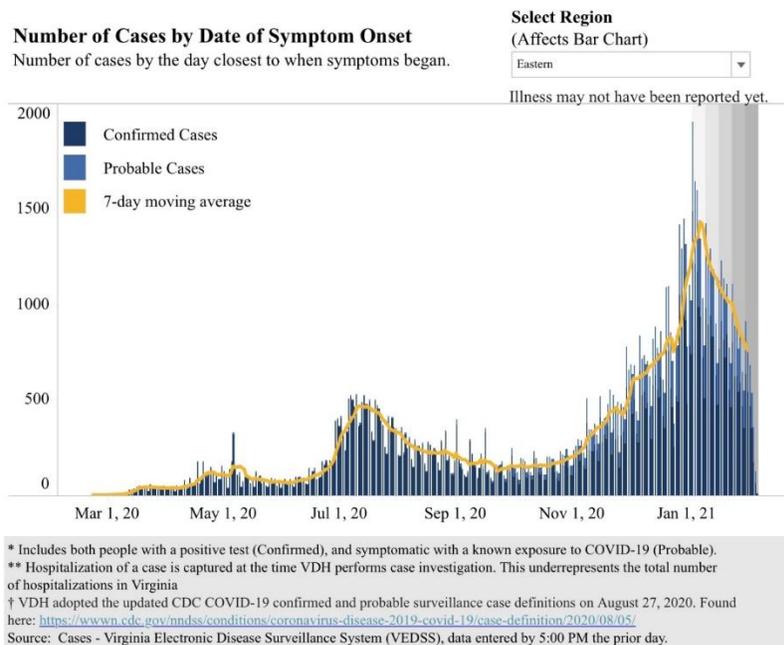
As noted above, the Healthy Church Team continues to closely monitor metrics from a variety of sources to assess when the conditions could make it possible resume in-person worship in the Sanctuary. **Based on the following data, we believe it is still not prudent to resume in-person worship services in the Sanctuary.**

3a. The Georgia Tech COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Planning Tool indicates there is currently a 48% chance in York County that at least one COVID-19 positive individual will be present in a 50-person gathering.



(Note: This map uses a Web Mercator projection that inflates the area of states in northern latitudes. County boundaries are generalized for faster drawing.)

3b. While the Virginia Department of Health data for the Eastern Region is now showing a decline in the 7-day average of new COVID-19 cases, the number remains well above where we were through the summer and fall of 2020.



3c. The York County School Division Health Metrics Dashboard, based on data from the Peninsula Health District, indicates we remain at the highest level for risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Indicators	Lowest	Lower	Moderate	Higher	Highest
Core Indicators					
Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 7* or 14 days**	<5	5 to <20	20 to <50	50 to ≤ 200	>200
Eastern Region*					←
Larger Peninsula**					↔
York County**					↔
Percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 7* or 14 days**	<3%	3% to <5%	5% to <8%	8% to ≤ 10%	>10%
Eastern Region*					←
Larger Peninsula**					←
York County**					←
Ability of the school to implement 5 key mitigation strategies.	Implemented all 5 strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented all 5 strategies correctly but inconsistently	Implemented 3-4 strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented 1-2 strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented no strategies
York County	✗				

Finally, and as a reminder, the only persons who should be in the church building are paid staff, those attending an approved small group gathering in the Fellowship Hall, and those who are deemed essential with the explicit permission of Pastor Lisa to enter the building. If you are in the building with that permission, please limit your travel and do not enter any room that has tape across its doorway. This will help us preserve the deep cleaning of the entire building that was accomplished in June 2020 and the periodic cleaning being conducted by our cleaning contractor.

Bob Van Zandt  
HCT Chairperson