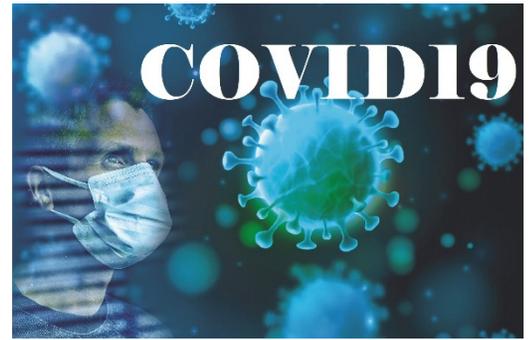


Attention All Presbyterian Members and Friends

Our Presbytery, our states, our country, and our world are facing the biggest threat since World War II. We need to take this as seriously as we do a war.

American Deaths:

- 58,000 men and women died or are missing from the Vietnam War
- 36,914 died from the Korean War
- 407,316 died in World War II
- **2,784,452 confirmed cases and 129,393 deaths from Covid-19 as of July 4 in the United States.**



After a period of decline when many states had implemented stay-at-home, social distancing, hand washing and mask-wearing precautions, new cases began to spike sharply upwards in 39 states after a number of states reopened. Cases are up in Missouri for a total of 24,002 cases and 1,063 deaths so far. Cases in Illinois are also rising with 147, 293 and 7,222 deaths as of July 4. Some states are re-implementing shutdowns and mask and distancing orders to try to reverse this trend.



People over 65 or who have chronic conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure are at the greatest risk of death from Covid-19 if they catch it. People of color and the poor are also at increased risk of catching Covid-19 and of dying from it due to a lack of access to health care, being unable to shelter at home because of economic or work factors, and more crowded living conditions.

Presbyterians are urged to take the precautions recommended by our medical and scientific experts until new infection levels in the entire country have been reduced to near zero. These precautions are:

- WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP FREQUENTLY.
- USE A HAND SANITIZER CONTAINING AT LEAST 70% ALCOHOL WHEN WASHING WITH SOAP AND WATER ISN'T AVAILABLE.
- CLEAN SURFACES IN YOUR HOME, YOUR WORKPLACE, YOUR CAR, AND ANYWHERE ELSE YOU SPEND TIME WITH A DISINFECTANT THAT KILLS BACTERIA AND VIRUSES.
- WEAR A **MASK** ANY TIME YOU GO OUT IN PUBLIC OR WHEN SOMEONE COMES INTO YOUR HOME. ASK YOUR GUESTS TO WEAR A MASK AS WELL.
- KEEP A DISTANCE OF 6 FEET BETWEEN YOU AND OTHER PEOPLE, EVEN WHILE WEARING A MASK.

Please protect your health and urge your friends and family to as well! You are precious! *"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; You were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies."* I Corinthians 6: 19 - 20