

Guidelines for Planning Synod Events, Meetings, and Other Gatherings
Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA
Effective August 19, 2021

In light of the current surge of the coronavirus, especially the Delta variant, when deciding whether to have a synod-sponsored or initiated event and, if so, in what form, the following factors will be given serious consideration in the decision-making process. When in-person gatherings are held, appropriate health and safety protocols will be carefully observed.

- Can the primary purpose(s) of the event be met in a format other than an in-person gathering? How will achievement of the primary purpose(s) of the event be affected by postponement or cancellation?
- What are the potential costs and losses related to cancellation of contracts and other commitments with venues and services should that become necessary?
- What are the ages and circumstances of potential participants? Are they eligible for vaccination? Are participants likely to include several people who are part of particularly vulnerable populations?
- How many participants are anticipated? Is the proposed venue able to provide distancing, appropriate ventilation, and other recommended safeguards against spread of the virus?
- Will food/meals need to be a part of the event? If so, can it be served and consumed in a safe environment and manner?
- Will overnight accommodations be necessary for participants and/or synod staff? If so, will available accommodations provide for observance of appropriate safeguards, e.g., sleeping space shared only with members of the same household?
- Will participants come from diverse geographic locations and distances or consist only of people from the same county or community?
- What do COVID-related statistics in the proposed meeting location suggest about the appropriateness of an in-person gathering?