

COVID 19 TASK FORCE ADDENDUM

Following the Task Force's communication last week, we learned – with thanks to Ken Broman-Fulks for sharing - of a press conference given by Dr. Christopher Ohl, an infectious disease expert with Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. The link to that press conference is pasted below, but there are two particular points we'd like to bring to your attention –

1. Research is showing that all three vaccines are not fully effective for those whose immune systems are suppressed, specifically, those who are on chemotherapy and those with organ transplants. He said that the vaccines are 50%, or less, effective than with the rest of the population.
2. Dr. Ohl spent about 10 minutes talking about places of worship and how we negotiate the quickly changing landscape following last week's surprising CDC announcement, and the fact that, in addition to unvaccinated children, some of the most vulnerable members of our church families – chemotherapy recipients and organ transplant recipients – are now even more vulnerable. In fact, he compared expecting these three groups to attend worship where folks are unmasked to removing handicap ramps from the entrances to our churches. We are keeping these groups from coming to church because of their condition, even when they are fully vaccinated but still dangerously vulnerable. He offers some alternatives that can be accessed via the pasted link.

<https://www.facebook.com/wakehealth/videos/2875161686066879>