Dear CTS Faculty, Staff, and Students,

Our current approach and response to Covid at Calvin Seminary includes a variety of good safety measures such as our high vaccination rate (at least 90%) and our safety protocols of wearing masks indoors in public spaces, distancing, and sanitation.

Our community overall is doing well as we continue to adhere to these measures. And safety for the community comes from a commitment by each individual’s commitment to keep others safe. We are grateful to all who continue to take the pandemic seriously and act in ways that protect self and others - thank you for loving your neighbor.

The reports from within the CTS community show that our COVID infection and exposure numbers continue to remain small. However, during this semester we have received more reports from people who have been exposed to COVID and we continue to encourage you to observe the safety protocols to remain safe. If you are vaccinated and have been exposed to someone with COVID, here is a page with current guidance from the CDC on what you should and shouldn’t do.

In contrast to the low number of cases at CTS, the numbers in Kent County are not good. The most recent CDC figures for our county show rising case counts and a test positivity rate of 15.9%. Cases were up 12.86% in the last week, and positivity rates were up 1.51%. The CDC rates our community transmission as "High," the worst of the four categories (Low, Moderate, Substantial and High).

LINK:

We encourage you to:

1. Be careful out there. Right now, Kent County is a bit of a hotspot for Covid. Stay safe. If you have symptoms, even if you are vaccinated, report those symptoms using this LINK: https://forms.gle/BT8M2ejbrUHTF9ny6. Doing so will ensure that all the necessary next steps happen as they should and will work for the safety and protection of you and your friends.

2. Because the CDC continues to recommend that "everyone in Kent County, Michigan should wear a mask in public, indoor settings." We are asking that each of you continues to wear a mask in public, indoor spaces.

We will continue to evaluate all aspects of Covid on a regular basis and will update the community as we continue to learn more about the developments in Kent County.

Again, our deep gratitude to all who are helping us manage the spread of Covid in our community. Your efforts are appreciated.

The Covid Response Team, Margaret Mwenda and Jeff Sajdak, Co-Chairs