

MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT
REVIVAL THROUGH UNITY AND DIVERSITY

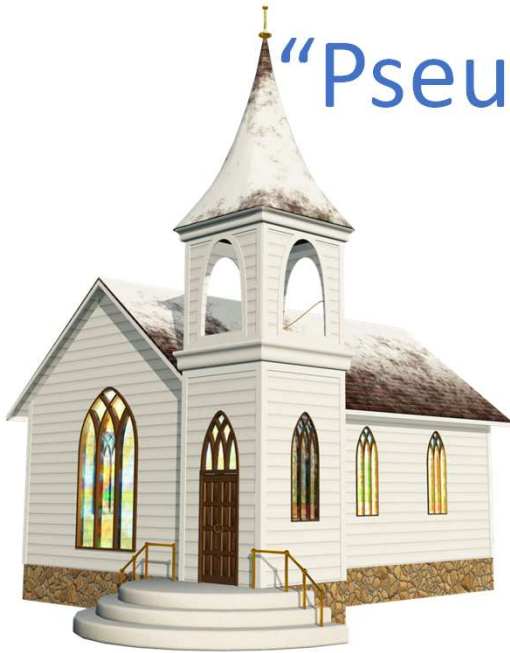
Greater Detroit District UMC
Annual Conference
September 18, 2021

The Church & the COVID-19 Pandemic
“Pseudo-After-Math”

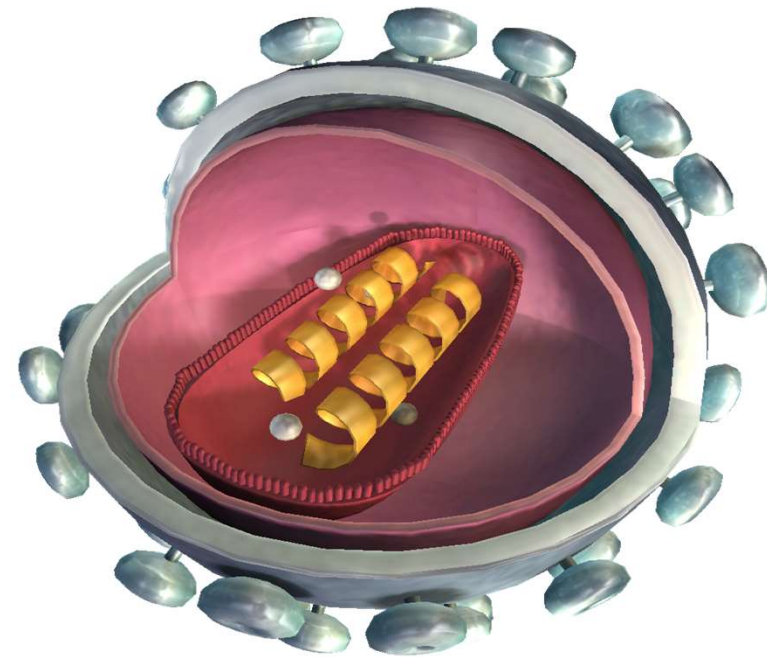
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The Church & the COVID-19 Pandemic

“Pseudo-After-Math”



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Discussion Overview

January 2020 marked the first cases of the SARS-COV-2 virus in the United States and by Mid-March, all 50 states had reported cases of Covid-19. Throughout that time, the U.S. has experienced multiple challenges such as the overwhelming of healthcare systems, lack of proper PPE for healthcare professionals, fiscal turmoil secondary to the need to shutdown businesses (i.e., restaurants, sporting events, entertainment venues, etc.). According to the CDC, the current U.S. cases of COVID-19 is over 41 million with a death toll that has surpassed over 650,000; worldwide, there has been over 219 million cases of COVID-19 and over 4.55 million deaths.

With the development of (3) COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna and J&J), which have varying but similar efficacy levels, one would think that we'd be on the downward trend of the pandemic and could be seeing "the light at the end of the tunnel." However, even with the development of the (3) vaccines, the U.S. still lags in Americans getting vaccinated. In addition, there remains many persons that are skeptical of the actual existence of the COVID-19 virus as well as mistrust in the science and in the government. The emergence of persons who are opposed to vaccinations (i.e., anti-vaxxers) and other methods of protection (i.e., "anti-maskers") have compounded the efforts to decrease transmission of the virus.

Objectives

To provide discussion on the COVID-19 virus by defining what a virus is and what a vaccine. In addition, I will touch on common myths, misinformation, personal belief, medical mistrust and disparities among minority communities that are barriers to individuals getting vaccinated. The effects on the church and the need to apt to changes in how worship services are conducted, continued safety measures will also be addressed.

Disclaimers

I do not have any conflicts of interests.

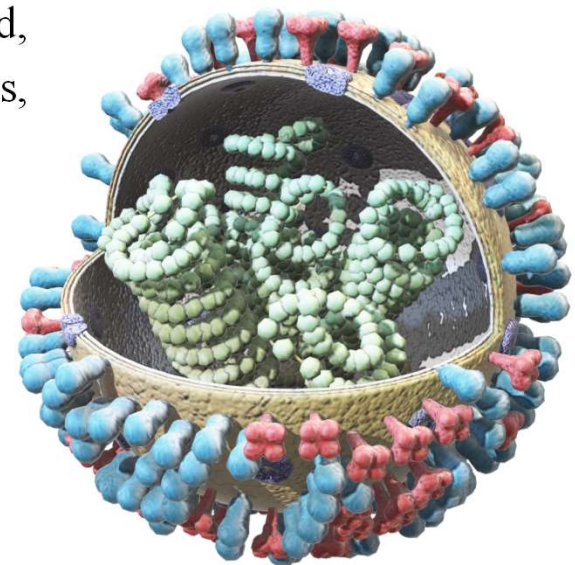
Definition of a Virus

According to the CDC, a virus is defined as “A tiny organism that multiplies within cells and causes disease; Viruses are not affected by antibiotics, (drugs used to kill bacteria.”)

Viruses are genetic material that consist of DNA or RNA and is protected by protein wrapping. Upon transmission of a virus, the replication process begins by binding to a cell's surface receptors inside of a host. The original genetic information of that cell is overwritten due to the replication process and as more and more cells are replicated/infected, the host's immune system is activated, causing an immune response (e.g., fever, chills, shortness of breath, headaches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, etc. (Reference Website: www.cdc.gov).

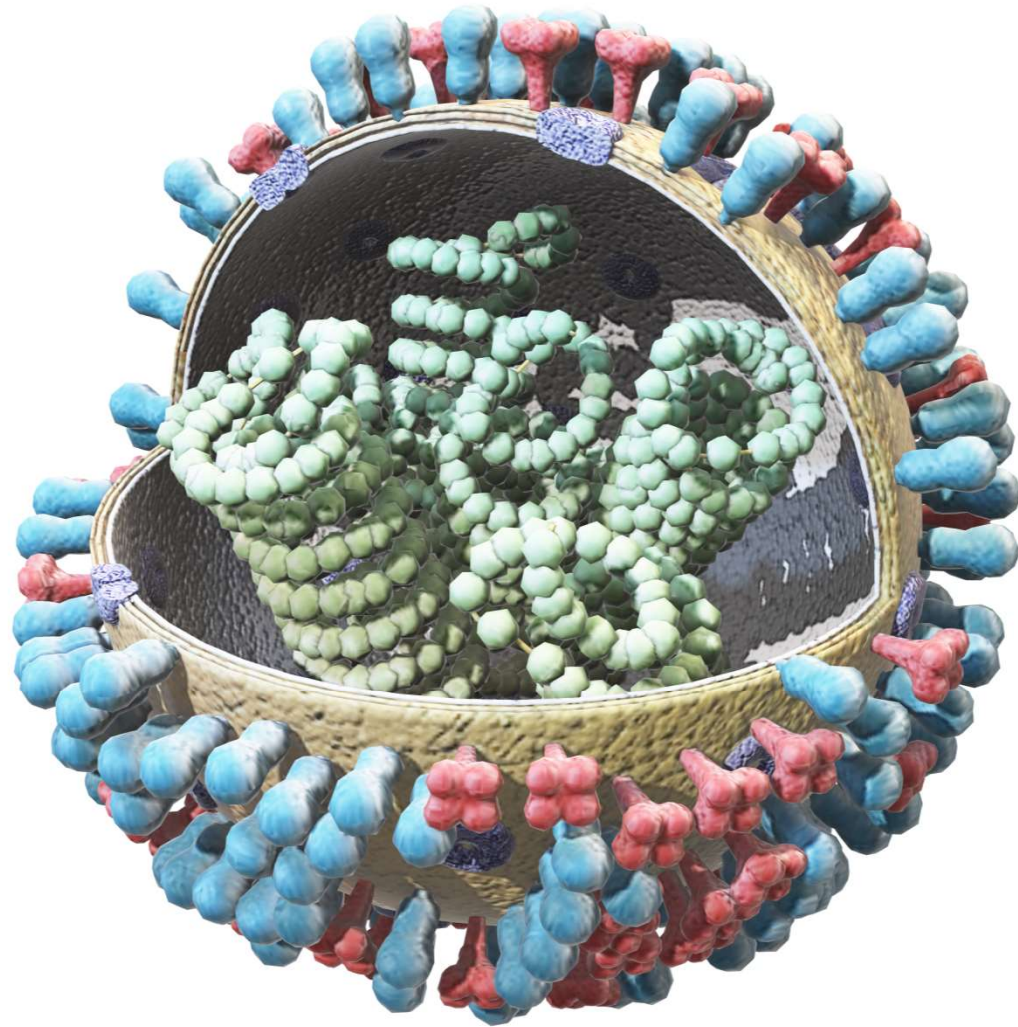
Definition of a Vaccine

“A suspension of live (usually attenuated/weakened) or inactivated microorganisms (e.g., bacteria or viruses) or fractions thereof, that are administered to induce immunity and prevent infectious diseases and their sequelae.” (Reference Website: www.cdc.gov).



Visual Depiction of the Covid-19 Virus Transmission

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqFn6AHoJZQ>



Reference Source: World Health Organization

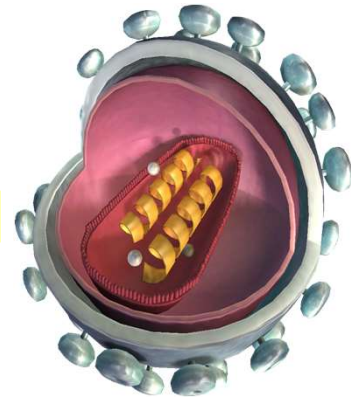
Some Common Myths, Personal Beliefs and Misinformation regarding the Covid-19 Vaccines

- I don't believe that the COVID-19 virus exist; It's something that the federal government made up as a scare tactic & to control people.
- The COVID-19 vaccine was developed to be a population-controlling mechanism.
- The COVID-19 vaccine was not FDA Approved and "I don't trust the FDA."

****Pfizer, Moderna and J&J vaccines received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA. As of August 23, 2021, the Pfizer vaccine is now formally approved by the FDA.****

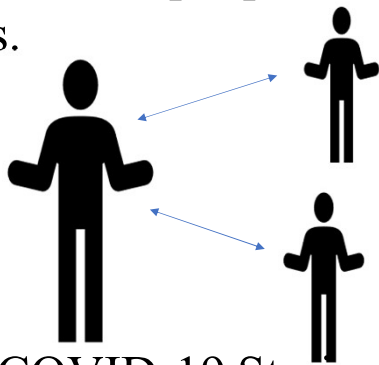
- There was not enough research done before the vaccine came out.
- I heard that the vaccine affects fertility & could possibly make someone infertile.
- Something in the shot that will lay dormant and once activated, it will kill you.
- I'm healthy & I don't think that I will catch it.
- I'm worried about the side effects & possible long-term effects of the vaccine.
- I don't trust the ingredients in the vaccine.
- I have an autoimmune disease (Guillain-Barre/Bell's Palsy) & my doctor told me not to get vaccinated.
- Religious Objections (i.e., I was told that stem cells from aborted fetus are used in the vaccine).
- Reference Website: www.cdc.gov

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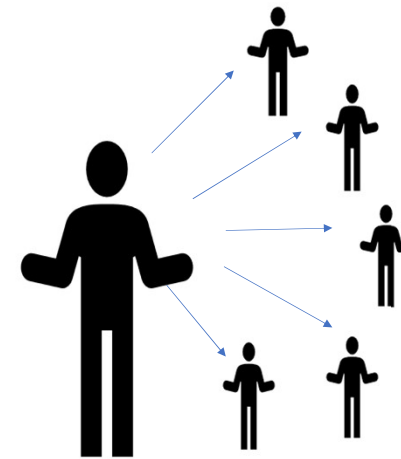


Covid-19 Virus and the Delta Variant

- The Delta Variant is currently the predominate variant of the COVID-19 virus in the U.S. It is more contagious; in fact, it is 2x as contagious than previous strains and spreads faster than earlier forms of the COVID-19 virus.
- The Delta Variant accounts for more than 80% of cases reported in the U.S.
- Unvaccinated people are the most at risk for developing severe illness.



Original COVID-19 Strain and potential of infection transmission

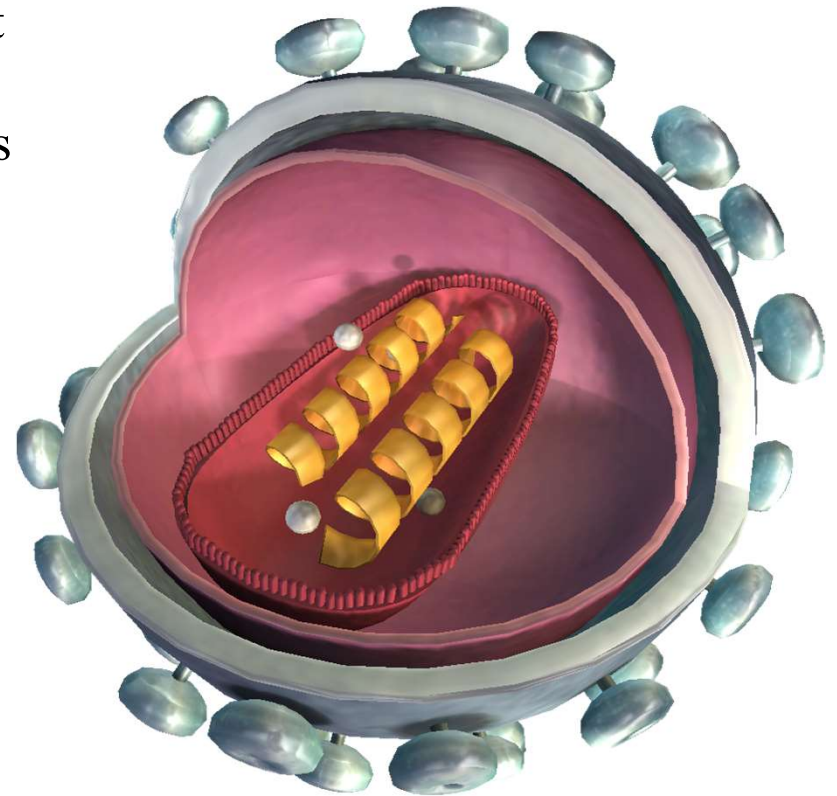


Delta Variant Strain – 2x the potential of infection transmission

Reference Website: www.cdc.gov

Medical Mistrust, Healthcare Disparities in Minority Communities regarding Covid-19 Vaccines

- Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment/Study of 1932-1972
- Henrietta Lacks – Usage of cellular material w/o consent
- Medical prejudices, discrimination, biases and disparities



Safety Measures to reduce/prevent the transmission of COVID-19/Delta Variant

• **Please, Please, Please, Get Vaccinated!!**

- The CDC is recommending that individuals who are immunocompromised and healthcare workers receive a booster vaccine 8 months after receiving their second vaccine injection (Pfizer/Moderna)
- Continue to wear facial coverings/face masks indoors and even outdoors when among crowds of people
- Hand Washing/Hand Sanitation
- Limit/eliminate modes of transmission opportunities (i.e., avoid usage of in-pew materials such as hymnals, offering envelopes, visitors' cards, etc.).
- Continue to Social Distance – Limit holding in-person administrative meetings, choir rehearsals, etc. (if possible), by utilizing various virtual meeting apps (i.e., Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.)

Questions/Answers/Comments/Session

1. A _____
2. B _____
3. C _____
4. D _____
5. E _____
6. F _____
7. G _____
8. H _____
9. I _____
10. J _____

I hope that the information provided in this workshop will be helpful to everyone, and I thank you for your time and attention.

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