

## **Guidelines and Requirements for UUFHC Gatherings:**

**UPDATED 23 November 2021**

The continued presence of COVID-19 in our communities and around the world presents an ever-shifting reality where we must balance our desire to be together in physical spaces with the safety and well-being of our Fellowship, its staff, and the community at large.

The Board and Professional Religious Staff of UUFHC, together with related sitting committees and special task force groups, will continue to evaluate this rapidly evolving situation and to develop guidelines that will support decision making and allow us to meet the spiritual needs of our community safely.

It is critical to note that stated guidelines and requirements will evolve as new information becomes available. The following document includes the **current** guidelines and requirements identified by the Board. This information will be changed and updated as the situation continues to evolve. The Board commits to ensuring that all information is communicated to the Fellowship quickly and that decisions are made with transparency.

To provide opportunities to participate online and in our building during this difficult period of a worldwide pandemic, we trust everyone who participates will consider the well-being and safety of our beloved community and follow all safety measures identified. Adherence to these guidelines is a part of remaining in right relationship and of supporting our beloved community.

Finally, all individuals who are eligible are strongly encouraged to get the vaccine.

Questions or concerns should be brought directly to Rev. María or to the Board for discussion.

### **Guiding Tenets**

The guiding tenets for all decision making around COVID-19 are:

1. The safety of the Fellowship, the staff, and the community
2. Our shared Unitarian Universalist principles
3. The spiritual needs of our Fellowship and congregation

Throughout this time, we commit to focus on healing and community building with attention to those populations most at risk throughout the pandemic.

### **Baseline Conditions for indoor worship and gathering.**

The Board has determined that we will follow the UUA recommended guidelines:

1. For all indoor gatherings, regardless of size, vaccination status, or area transmission risk: Require good ventilation, well-fitted masks, physical distancing of at least 6 ft, reduced occupancy, no singing, and no food, nor drinks.
2. Require well-fitted masks for all large outdoor events, for any outdoor event where unvaccinated children or other vulnerable people are included, and for outdoor gatherings of any size in counties

where transmission is Very High or Severe ([per the COVID Act Now data](https://covidactnow.org/us/maryland-md/?s=25901499): <https://covidactnow.org/us/maryland-md/?s=25901499>).

3. In areas where transmission risk is Very High or Severe, (per the COVID Act Now data), suspend all large, in-person (indoor and outdoor) gatherings such as worship, concerts, or fundraisers.
4. In areas where transmission risk is Low, Medium, or High (per the COVID Act Now data), small and mid-size gatherings, including limited-attendance worship, may be reasonably safe if indoor precautions for masking, ventilation, physical distancing and high vaccination rates are followed.
  - a. UUFHC will limit attendance in the Sanctuary to 50 participants. This is based on chair groups spaced 6' apart and alternating rows of 1 & 2 chair groups.

Additionally, Faith Formation will be held outdoors whenever possible. Sessions may be moved indoors at the discretion of the Director of Faith Formation. In the event that sessions are moved indoors, we will continue to take all indoor precautions for masking, ventilation, and physical distancing.

Finally, it is the UUFHC Board's expectation, aligned to the UUA recommendations, that all who are eligible will receive the vaccine and any applicable boosters based on CDC recommendations.

#### **Requirements for gathering indoors**

Once conditions have been satisfied and the decision has been made to return to indoor gathering, all participants will be required to adhere to the following requirements:

- Any individual who is feeling unwell, experiencing any symptoms, or has had confirmed or potential contact with anyone who is positive for COVID-19 should not attend.
- Those who have been exposed to COVID-19 should get a test on the fifth day of quarantine following most recent exposure. If the test is negative, AND you have no symptoms AND you have had no new exposure, you may come to church after day seven of your quarantine. HOWEVER, THOSE WHO ARE FULLY VACCINATED (i.e. at least 2 weeks have passed since your last dose of vaccine, regardless of boosters) need not quarantine, and may come to church masked and distanced with everyone else.
- All individuals over the age of two (2), regardless of vaccination status, will follow a 100% mask mandate while inside the fellowship building
  - This requirement is regardless of how many other people are in the building or the length of time the individual will be in the building
- All indoor services will be physically distanced between cohabitating family groups
  - Attendance may be limited to meet the physical distancing requirements
  - Specific processes to register to attend services in person will be announced once finalized
  - All individuals will be required to follow any reservation procedures to enter the Fellowship building

- All individuals in the building will be required to sign in to allow for contact tracing
- No food or beverages will be served, nor are food or beverages allowed to be brought in to or consumed in the building. Medical exceptions will be considered.
- The shared restrooms will be one person use at a time with the main doors propped open, excluding children and those who need assistance. We recommend that men use a stall, not the urinal, for privacy. The single occupancy bathroom on the board room side will also be available for use. Individuals will be expected to use available antiseptic wipes on the touched surfaces after use (sink, faucets, toilet flusher and stall door handles)
- All individuals will be required to follow all hand sanitization and other hygiene requirements
- Indoor services will have safety and hygiene limitations including (but not limited to)
  - No group singing – music and singing will be performed by identified individuals.
  - No sharing of microphones- processes for candles of sharing and other activities will be announced
- At the conclusion of services, individuals will be asked to leave the space and not congregate indoors

#### **Requirements for gathering outdoors**

- All individuals over the age of two (2), regardless of vaccination status will always follow a 100% mask mandate.
- Physical Distancing Requirements will be announced in advance for each event
- No food or beverages will be served.

#### **Other Considerations**

- Use of the Fellowship grounds for special events or small gatherings will be limited to official church functions and special services for members (weddings, memorials, etc.)
  - Committees who wish to schedule an activity on the Fellowship grounds should contact the Board to register and to complete the Facilities Request Form posted on the UUFHC Website, Members Only Tab.
  - Individuals who are seeking to hold a special service (weddings, memorials, etc.) should coordinate directly with Rev. María.

#### **Resources**

- Guidance from UUA [can be found here: https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/guidance-delta-variant](https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/guidance-delta-variant)