

## UUCville Reopening with COVID Safety Protocols

The UUCville Board has accepted the Reopening/Building Use Task Force's report and recommendations for reopening. You can read the full report [HERE](#).

**With Joy and Celebration, we will reopen on March 20 for in person Sunday Services with the following protocols to limit the potential physical harm of being together.**

We will continue online, zoom access to services as we did in the fall through dual platform services.

We ask that everyone act out of love and kindness for the well-being of every congregant, and especially for the most vulnerable members of our congregation, and follow the protocols listed below. It is important to keep in mind that we want to live our faith as a compassionate multi-generational community, and so we feel it is important to be thoughtful of those who are not candidates for vaccination (such as young children), others for whom vaccinations may not have optimal effectiveness (such as children and immunocompromised individuals), and those who are at risk for serious consequences of infection.

- 1) We are requesting that only **fully vaccinated** people attend indoor events at the church. We will not be checking the vaccination status of congregants. We will rely on your honesty and compassion toward other attendees and the community to comply with this policy. People who attend without being fully vaccinated are putting not only themselves at risk, but also anyone that they might come into contact with who is vulnerable, particularly other unvaccinated individuals (e.g., young children) or persons for whom vaccines may not be fully effective (e.g., people with compromised immune systems).

Being fully vaccinated is by no means a guarantee of protection against infection. Attending church events is still a risk even if you are vaccinated.

We are strongly discouraging unvaccinated people from attending indoor events. For unvaccinated persons who must attend church events regardless, we ask that they avoid any potential COVID exposure within 5 days of the event, and perform a rapid at-home or commercial COVID test the day of the event with a negative result. Please note that, while a positive at-home test is highly accurate, a negative at-home test is much less so.

- 2) **Faith Development for All Ages RE** will continue outside as it was last fall. Children who are too young to be vaccinated are welcome at these events. We ask everyone at these events wear masks throughout our time together.
- 3) We strongly discourage anyone from attending indoor or outdoor events **if they have symptoms suggestive of COVID infection** such as (but not limited to) fever, chills, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath, loss of sense of taste or smell or diarrhea.

- 4) We are asking all attendees to wear **N95 or KN95 masks** in the building. These masks are the most effective at blocking transmission of the virus. N95 or KN95 masks will be available at the door for those who do not bring them. You can find additional information on masks in the Task Force report.
- 5) We ask that attendees maintain **6 feet of separation** between pods (groups of people who ordinarily spend a great deal of time together). We will block off every other row of pews in the sanctuary to facilitate this distancing.
- 6) We will limit the number of people in the sanctuary to 75 while we are in the orange zone of community infection rates, 100 while we are in yellow and no limit while we are in green.
- 7) We will use the social hall as spillover space, with the service available on the TV screen in the social hall, should the sanctuary exceed recommended capacity.
- 8) Service leaders may be allowed to remove masks while they are speaking as long as they are distanced from the congregation.
- 9) Weather permitting, we will keep doors and windows open while people are in the building.

We greatly appreciate the hard work, creativity and commitment of our staff and multitude of volunteers in carrying us through these challenging times. Since we have been unable to gather safely in person, the creative zoom services, drive by events, outdoor gatherings, and online meetings have been nourishing and healing. But we have missed being together in person.

We are so very glad to be able to offer the choice of being together in person in our beloved church building!