

Policy for In-Person Gatherings at UUCNH During the Covid-19 Pandemic

This is the fifth revision to the original August 2020 policy and is effective as of April 1, 2022.

Purpose: Manage UUCNH's careful navigation of the COVID pandemic through a multi-faceted layered approach to precautions. This revision is based on new guidance the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") issued on February 25, 2022 and declining Covid cases and reduced risk factors in the local area (using Allegheny County data). A "step-wise approach" is being used in relaxing requirements to provide flexibility to respond to future changes in the risk level, to increase precautions if necessary or, hopefully, further reduce or remove restrictions. The task force established to monitor developments and make recommendations to the Board will continue to do so until a policy is no longer needed.

Requirements for In-person Gatherings at UUCNH

1. Sunday Services and all other church activities and events, including children's faith development classes, are open for in-person attendance with the restrictions listed below.
2. All attendees must be **fully vaccinated** against Covid according to applicable CDC guidelines; Covid symptom free; and have no recent Covid exposure or positive Covid test. Vaccination status will be on the honor system. This applies to all ages 5 years and above. Children under 5 who currently are not eligible for vaccination may attend church activities if wearing masks.
3. For Bellwood, if the church is vacant during the Bellwood school day, and Bellwood would like to use the church, it may set its own policy regarding the masking of children. Otherwise, paragraph 2 applies.
4. Masks are optional but recommended for all other attendees inside all church buildings. Mask-wearing is also optional but recommended for speakers and for attendees while singing hymns if practicing social distancing.
5. Singing remains limited to three hymns plus one choir anthem or special music. While singing, masks are optional for the choir.
6. Social distancing precautions remain in place inside church buildings. The West Room seating arrangement is set to meet this goal, and the Church will continue to make accessible overflow space and seating available in Friendship Hall/East Room. As groups plan meetings, they should account for appropriate social distancing.
7. There will be no kitchen access and no food/drink service inside the church building and no in-person Coffee Hour for now. Individuals attending group meetings or in conversation following a service may bring their own drink for personal use.

Approved by the UUCNH Board of Trustees March 15, 2022