

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula (UUCMP)

**COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR UUCMP ACTIVITIES INSIDE THE UUCMP BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

[Note: this protocol is based on current guidance from cognizant government agencies. It supersedes the Reopening Task Force Protocols for Small Group Indoor Use dated October 11, 2020 and August 18, 2021.]

In the spirit of inclusivity, our primary concern in any UUCMP group gathering needs to be protecting the safety of the most vulnerable among us. This is of special concern for those with existing health issues, and for unvaccinated children. With this overriding concern, and while recognizing the reduced risk of COVID-19 exposure among an increasingly vaccinated population, the following standards shall apply:

1. Permission required. Building use is prohibited unless specific permission has been granted by the ministers or church office staff for each entry. Events entered on the church calendar by the Church Administrator are granted access permission.
2. Access limited. Events will be assigned to specific spaces in the building. Except for as-needed access to restrooms, event participants must remain in their assigned space. Entry to and exit from assigned spaces must be in accordance with the below chart, which also shows the maximum capacity allowed for each space. Seating limits are based on a three-foot distance between centers of chairs (“nose to nose”).

SPACE	CAPACITY	ENTRY & EXIT
Sanctuary (only) – theater-style seating, with central aisle	63	Foyer & Welcome Hall entrance
Sanctuary (only) – theater-style seating, no central aisle	71	Foyer & Welcome Hall entrance
Sanctuary & Welcome Hall – theater-style seating with central aisle in sanctuary	75	Foyer & Welcome Hall entrance
Sanctuary & Welcome Hall – theater-style seating without central aisle	83	Foyer & Welcome Hall entrance
Sanctuary - unseated	80	Foyer & Welcome Hall entrance
Welcome Hall - unseated	50	Foyer & Welcome Hall entrance
Sanctuary & Welcome Hall - unseated	130	Foyer & Welcome Hall entrance
Fireplace Room	16	Exterior door to room
Conference Room	10	Exterior door to room
Emerson Room	8	Exterior door to room
Kitchen	4	Exterior or interior doors

Aside from the Emerson Room, Religious Exploration classrooms are closed.

Any authorized user of UUCMP spaces may use restrooms. Restroom capacity is limited to 3 in the main floor men’s room, 4 in the main floor women’s room, and 1 in the downstairs restroom with the exterior door. Transit time to the restrooms should be minimized.

3. Precautions against infection.

(a) Individuals known to be actively infected with COVID-19 or exhibiting any of the following symptoms may not enter the church building: fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; severe fatigue; dry cough; unusual body aches; difficulty breathing or shortness of breath. UUCMP encourages anyone with such symptoms to be tested for COVID-19 infection.

(b) Protective masks covering mouth and nose must be worn by anyone inside the church building. Exceptions may be granted due to documented medical necessity. Vaccinated church staff within their routine office spaces and individuals actively recording segments of worship services are exempt.

(c) Individuals should maintain a distance of three feet or more between themselves and anyone not in their own household. Frequent hand washing or sanitizing is strongly encouraged.

(d) Minimize potential exposure to infection by keeping events as short as possible. Events or meetings lasting longer than one hour are strongly discouraged.

(e) For the duration of each event, the space must be well-ventilated using installed forced-air equipment or portable fans, with air being exhausted to the exterior through opened windows, doors or vents.

(f) When there is food shared during the event, service from the kitchen must be through the pass-through openings into the sanctuary, managed by a limited number of people (maximum 4) in the kitchen. Serving utensils should not be shared. Utensils, dishware and surfaces used for the event must be sanitized (see below). No food may be left in the kitchen or refrigerators.

(g) After each event, common-touch surfaces (tabletops, doorknobs, light switches, shared pens, etc.) must be wiped down with sanitizing materials. If restrooms have been used, then surfaces and handles therein must also be sanitized. Church staff will maintain a supply of sanitizing materials in each space.

(h) Each space used for an event or meeting, when using ventilation procedures as outlined, must remain idle (i.e., no access) for at least 3 hours before its next scheduled use, to permit natural dissipation of airborne viral particles [see Background section below]. Note: this requirement is subject to review for the sanctuary and Fireplace Room, once their ventilation systems have been upgraded.

4. Documenting access. Each person entering the UUCMP building for an organized event must sign in using a copy of the attached form. The purpose of the form is twofold: (a) obtain waiver of UUCMP liability for incidental COVID-19 infection while on the premises, and (b) identify people who may need to be contacted in case a participant is subsequently found to be infected (i.e., contact tracing). The attendance/waiver form must be filled out and signed for each occasion of building access. For incidents of occasional access, use the form posted at the entrance. A supply of forms and pens will be provided in each space by church staff. Pens must be separated for subsequent sanitization after each use.

5. Point of Contact responsibilities. Each event scheduled at UUCMP must have an individual Point of Contact who is responsible for group compliance with this protocol. Their responsibilities include:

- (a) Ensure the event is properly scheduled by the church and access permission is thereby granted.
- (b) Contact all participants in advance, to inform them of event specifics and protocol requirements, specifically including which entrance to use and sign-in procedures.
- (c) Complete the top portion of the attendance/waiver form, and then sign in on a row below.
- (d) Ensure each attendee completes and signs one row on the attendance/waiver form.
- (e) Ensure post-event sanitization of common-touch surfaces, including in restrooms, is performed. This may include specific coordination with the Church Administrator for sanitization service by the church's custodial staff.
- (f) Deposit the completed attendance/waiver form in the door slot to the equipment room in the Friendship Hall, opposite the door to the Fireplace Room.
- (g) Ensure room furniture is restored to its starting configuration, and the space is locked on departure.

6. Background. Please note that this information is current as of September 10, 2021, and things are shifting quickly so there may be some discrepancies by the time you read it. Even with the fluid nature of the pandemic, the Reopening Task Force feels it is important to present facts along with our recommendations to better illustrate our decision-making process.

- New infections in our county are rising and are currently 217.3 per 100,000 people, and 7.2% test positivity rate for those tested. Monterey county is considered an area of substantial transmission. Current details of COVID-19 infection in Monterey County can be found at this web site: <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-local-data-10219>
- The delta variant is now the dominant COVID-19 variant in the US, and accounted for 99% of new infections by the end of July (91.7% in California), according to the CDC.
- The delta variant is much more infectious than the previous types of COVID-19. People with the alpha variant would on average infect two other people, while those with delta variant on average infect five or more people.
- There is evidence that vaccinated people can transmit the delta variant, which is why the CDC changed their mask recommendations and now recommends people in substantial or high infection areas wear a mask inside regardless of vaccination status.

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6. Background, continued

- Vaccine breakthrough infections are expected - no vaccine is 100% effective. As of August 31, 2021, the CDC reported that the U.S. has documented 14,115 breakthrough infections resulting in hospitalization or death, out of the more than 176 million people who have been fully vaccinated. This accounts for 0.008% of all people vaccinated. You can either increase or decrease your own chances of getting infected with your behaviors such as wearing masks and social distancing. Getting vaccinated is still the best way to protect yourself and those around you.
- COVID-19 virus longevity in an indoor environment, from a May 2021 article posted at

<https://coronavirusexplained.ukri.org/en/article/pub0008/>

A recent study has explored how long SARS-CoV-2 remains infectious outside the human body, either in droplets or on contaminated surfaces. Two key parameters were measured: the half-life of the virus, which is the time taken for 50% of the viruses to be no longer infectious, and the maximum time at which viable viruses could be recovered. Evidence collected for SARS-CoV-2 showed that viruses in droplet aerosols (a fine mist) had a half-life of just over an hour but some could survive for three hours or more. Infectious virus could be detected on copper surfaces for up to four hours, on cardboard for up to 24 hours, and on plastic and stainless steel for at least 72 hours. These observations of virus persistence underline the value of regular disinfection of surfaces and attention to hand hygiene in controlling the spread of infection. A limitation of these studies is that they have been performed under a single set of conditions (indoors with constant temperature and humidity [and presumably negligible exhaust ventilation]), and with a single initial dose of virus. It is likely that virus persistence will vary in different indoor and outdoor environments, and the length of time a surface remains contaminated will depend on the initial dose of virus to which it is exposed.

