

UU Church of Waterville COVID-19 Advisory Update - 10/28/21

Background: The UU Church's ad hoc **COVID-19 Advisory Group** began meeting biweekly on 9/15/21 and issued initial recommendations on 9/20/21. It has continued to monitor the pandemic situation using official metrics (daily new cases, positivity rate, transmission rate, breakthrough rate, death rate, etc.), looking at national, state, and county data as well as reviewing guidance from experts at the CDC and UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association).

Members: Sarah Seder (chair), Peter Burgher (joined 10/15/21), Sally Harwood, Jon Rogers, Beth Schiller, and Linda Seekiins.

On 10/13/21, the Board of Trustees approved the group's recommendation to not meet for worship services in the church until after at least 1/31/22, extending the Board's previous decision to continue Zoom services through 10/31/21.

The recommendations (below) will continue to be adjusted as conditions change. Please direct any questions to Sarah Seder at sseder@roadrunner.com

Current Recommendations (as of 10/13/21):

- **No In-Church Sunday Services until after January, 2022.** While many of us are eager to return to gathering in person at church, it is the Board's responsibility to assure that we are adhering to best and safest practices.
- **No In-Church Group Meetings for now:** Church groups should meet remotely (via Zoom, FaceTime, etc.) or outdoors, rather than in the church building.
- **Necessary Use of the Church only: Valid reasons** for being in the building include:
 - Using the organ and piano for church service music (including practicing)
 - Using the kitchen and lower entry way for the Evening Sandwich Program
 - Accessing or delivering documents and other items related to church business
 - Cleaning or performing maintenance, safety checks, and repairs
- **In-Church Protocols:** Individuals who *must* be in the church for valid church business (see above) must follow **pandemic safety protocols**:
 - Wear a multi-layer, well-fitted mask that covers nose and mouth, when in the presence of others
 - Stay 6 feet apart (when gathering is unavoidable)
 - Practice good hygiene (handwashing and/or sanitizing)
 - Refrain from eating or drinking
 - No group singing
- **Outdoor Protocols:** When meeting outdoors, follow **pandemic safety protocols**:
 - Wear a multi-layer, well-fitted mask that covers nose and mouth
 - Stay (at least) 6 feet apart

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- Practice good hygiene (hand sanitizing)
- Refrain from eating or drinking
- For outdoor singing (if any), singers should wear masks, distance as much as possible, and keep singing time to a minimum