

UUCSC
27 North Road
Peace Dale, RI 02879

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Initial Safety Protocol for In-Person Gatherings:

Updated Covid-19 Safety Policy

Published April 28, 2021

The leadership of the UUCSC has reviewed gathering guidance from the RI Department of Health and the Unitarian Universalist Association. As of May 2021, transmission risk of COVID-19 in Rhode Island is low for small gatherings. We ask members who plan to meet in person to follow the recommendations below.

- **It is safest to meet outside. If that is not possible, then we recommend a well ventilated room with enough space for social distancing.**
- **Mask-wearing is strongly suggested and encouraged for all those over the age of three for any meeting/gathering at UUCSC. (Masks are mandatory for singing.)**
- **Accessibility is a priority and should be considered when planning a gathering.**
- **Attendance must be kept with full names and contact information for any future contact tracing.**
- **No meetings are permitted inside the UUCSC building at this time. The upstairs bathroom (the “gender neutral” bathroom) is available for use, one family at a time. Guidelines will be posted.**
- **Please do not share food or drink with people outside your household at gatherings. Keep eating to a minimum.**
- **Offer virtual options when possible and when planning gatherings take time to create a shared understanding of the risks.**

- **We need to be prepared to shift back to virtual meetings if conditions change.**
- **Keep in mind that our risk taking and protective actions affect far more than just ourselves.**

Further Gathering Plans:

Starting in mid-May 2021, we may offer some RE and Choir Practice. These offerings will follow the Safety guidelines below.

[Staff can input specific clarity or additions here]

As a team, we wish to note that any in-person interaction during the Covid-19 pandemic carries some level of risk. There is no perfectly safe policy or procedure that can eliminate the chance of contracting Covid-19. That said, we have tried to find ways that our community can have some meaningful in-person interaction, while minimizing the risk as much as possible. It is each individual's and parent's responsibility to decide if they wish to take the risk.

As groups consider whether to hold in-person gatherings (indoors or outdoors), we strongly encourage reflection as to how this decision may impact more vulnerable members of our community and the wider community. Inclusiveness and accessibility are justice issues core to our mission. Consideration must be given to inclusivity, accessibility, and equity when planning gatherings.

Staff members will not be required to participate in in-person gatherings if they feel unsafe in doing so during the Covid-19 pandemic.

All events must include attendance-taking by the event organizer, and in the event of a case of COVID 19, the organizer would be responsible for contacting all attendees promptly. Events may have to be cancelled with short notice.

Events on UUCSC grounds must be pre-arranged by contacting Sue Rogala at uucscri@yahoo.com.

Minors need a parent or designated adult present.

Music-Making

Masked musicians, maintaining 10 foot distance (unless in the same household) can create recordings with no audience present.

Unmasked musicians, maintaining 25 foot distance (unless in the same household) can create recordings of vocal or wind instruments with no audience present.

Masked musicians, maintaining 10 foot distance (unless in the same household) can create recordings with no audience present. Bell covers are recommended.

If the event includes live music and/or communal singing, participants must be masked and 10 feet distanced. An unmasked performer can sing or play a wind instrument with 25 foot distancing from those gathered. Bell covers are recommended for wind instruments.

Future Questions and Considerations the Board and Staff will revisit in June 2021:

When it is safe to meet *inside* again?

The hope is that we can resume in-person worship in September 2021

If/when can we safely consume food and drink on site, for example, coffee hour?

If/when can adults and unvaccinated children be together, for example in RE and worship?

Will we begin communal in-person worship and/or Religious Education programs for children and youth outdoors before reopening indoors?

How may our choir safely gather?

What other risks and possibilities will arise?

If you have any comments or feedback, please contact Board President, Natalie Herbermann, at nherbermann@hotmail.com