

Published: 8/15/21

Revised 10/19/21

Revised 03/15/22

WSUU COVID GUIDELINES

The Board of Trustees have updated our COVID Guidelines with the guidance of our COVID Task Force. Please see the recent changes in red.

1. Out of respect for the safety of our members and visitors, we will continue to require vaccinations and masks while in our building (with the exception of children under 5 or those not eligible for a vaccination or unable to wear a mask for health reasons who are exempt). By entering the building, you are attesting that you are vaccinated.
2. We will be dropping the pre-registration before Sunday services to be replaced by a sign in sheet for *new visitors only* requesting their email or contact information in case of a COVID exposure. All others will be informed of a COVID exposure through our Friday Weekly Update or an email blast.
3. Seating in the sanctuary will be adjusted to allow for both 6 feet distancing and close proximity seating. Members and visitors can select their personal preference. The 100 capacity seating requirement is lifted.
4. No shared food or drink in the Social Hall remains in place for now. Arrangements may be made for outside food or drink under the tent depending on the availability of regular volunteers to organize and provide refreshments.

General Guidelines on Church Property Inside and Outside

- WSUU requires all persons (meaning those 5 years of age and older who are eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination) attending or participating in events in the WSUU building to be vaccinated. By the fact of entering the WSUU building, an individual attests to being vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Those *not eligible* for the COVID-19 vaccine are exempt. This includes exempting children under the age five and other persons not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Masks are required in all *indoor* WSUU church spaces unless you are a vaccinated staff member working alone or with other employees, a young child under 2 years of age, and/or a person who cannot wear a mask due to a health or accessibility need.
- Masks are optional *outside* the building for vaccinated persons. All unvaccinated persons should wear a mask *outside* unless socially distanced. Masks must be worn when re-entering the building.
- Members and visitors are welcome to eat or drink in the gardens, parking lot or entry areas.
- Please bring your mask to church. Wipes and hand sanitizer will be available in the building.
- Be aware of people maintaining social distance, and respect social distancing requests at all times. Ask before giving hugs or shaking hands—not everyone will be comfortable with close contact.
- No shared food or drink is allowed inside the building including the sanctuary, social hall, and small group meeting spaces. No shared food or coffee/tea will be served during social hour, or provided by small groups, or the Religious Education (RE) program inside the building.

- Drinks or snacks for individuals needing them for health/accessibility reasons are allowed and masks may be removed temporarily to consume the drink or food in the building spaces.
- Frequent use of hand sanitizer and hand washing is encouraged.
- With the exception of a Sunday service, all persons must enter and exit the building via the office door and schedule meetings through the main office or a staff member.
- Only 2 people are permitted to occupy the elevator at a time.
- **Optional onsite sign-in will be employed to facilitate contact tracing.**

Sunday Services in our Church Building *(some guidelines are still in development)*

- All guidelines above will apply before, during and after services in the entry areas, sanctuary, social hall and RE spaces.
- **Fifty percent of the seating in the sanctuary will be spaced to allow for 6 feet of distance between pod/household groups.**
- **Onsite sign-in sheets, requesting email information, will be available for the purposes of contact tracing for new visitors and non-members not receiving our Friday Westside Weekly at the front and social hall entrances.**
- While on the dais and physically distanced, those engaged in conducting the service may remove their mask when speaking or singing.
- Congregational singing is discouraged during the worship service.
- The windows of the sanctuary will be open whenever feasible.
- Adjustments to the Sunday service format may continue to be made to increase safety and accessibility.

Small Groups or Meetings in our Building, Off Site, and Virtual (under 20 persons)

- Small group or special event leaders and participants can decide together whether they will meet in the church building (meeting the requirements above), at a public place, personal home or Zoom setting. Preference should be given to the safest and most accessible setting for the highest number of participants.
- **By the fact of entering the WSUU building, an individual attests to being vaccinated against COVID-19. Those not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine are exempt.**
- All meetings offered at the church building must be scheduled with the office or a staff member. Impromptu meetings are not allowed in the building at this time.
- While in the church building, small group meeting leaders and participants are responsible for wearing masks, not sharing food or drink, opening windows, and using hand sanitizer in meeting rooms such as the Fireside Room, RE spaces, etc.
- Before leaving a church space, close windows securely, use wipes on all used surfaces and straighten the space (we have Saturday evening limited janitorial services only).

Large Events Inside and Outside our Church Property (20 or more persons)

- Event arrangements (spaces, times) need to be scheduled with the Administrator.
- Inside the building, masks are required. Outside, masks are optional for vaccinated persons. Food and drink need to be consumed outside the building. Members and visitors are welcome to eat or drink in the parking lot or garden areas.
- **By the fact of entering the WSUU building, an individual attests to being vaccinated against COVID-19. Those not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine are exempt.**

- A buffet line is allowed inside with social distancing and consumption of food and drink outside the building.
- Masks must be worn when re-entering the building to access restrooms, kitchen, and public spaces.

Preventing Infection—Notifying—Responding with Care

- WSUU encourages everyone to be proactive in protecting each other. Vaccinations are highly recommended for all Westside UU members and visitors who are eligible. Download the Washington Exposure Notifications app (Washington Notify) on your phone. Keep others safe. Stay home when ill, isolate from others, and get tested right away if exposed.
- Contact the main office immediately if you have attended a WSUU in-person gathering (onsite or elsewhere) and you or a household member tests positive or has been exposed to a COVID infected individual. If a positive COVID exposure is reported, WSUU will prioritize safety of our congregational community and respond to local and/or state health department instructions.
- **In the event of a positive COVID exposure being reported to WSUU, the membership will be emailed the date and time of day when that person was present at a WSUU event. WSUU will not ask people to share their name as part of contact tracing.**

Please note: The current COVID variants are challenging to predict. These guidelines will be updated as needed to meet state/local health requirements or in the best interests of our congregation. Thank you for the assistance and guidance of the COVID Task Force.

Board of Trustees