

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua
Companionship on life's sacred journey

COVID Policy and Plan for Reopening
for Multiplatform Worship Services and Other Activities

The following policy is put in place by the UUCNC Executive Board, **effective May 1, 2022** and replaces all previous policies. It was developed following UUA and CDC guidelines by the Reopening and Gathering Team, the Executive Board, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee, using data reported at covidactnow.org. It will be in effect at least through the end of May and is intended to run through the end of the current church year in June. Please note, however, that this plan is subject to change if changing conditions warrant. Any change in our COVID policy will be decided by the 15th of the month before the month in which it will take effect.

1) General Provisions

- a) Being “fully vaccinated” and boosted is strongly encouraged but is not mandatory.
- b) For all phases of reopening for in-person gatherings, a way for people to participate virtually must be provided.
- c) If you have recently tested positive, are not feeling well, or think you may have been recently exposed to the virus, you should contact your health care provider and attend virtually and not in person.
- d) Social distancing is encouraged in the building. Please ask permission before shaking hands or hugging other people.

2) Starting May 1, small groups may meet in person, and worship will be offered both in person and on Zoom.

- a) Gatherings must be scheduled in advance by contacting Janey Wagner or Wendy Westwood, who will add them to the online calendar. As always, check to make sure ALL doors are shut tightly, ALL windows closed, and ALL lights shut off when you leave. Please continue to use the sign-in sheets provided.
- b) Always provide a Zoom option for those who are unable to attend in person or are more comfortable attending virtually. To provide the Zoom option, you may use the laptop located underneath the clock in the large room; please put it back in the same place and connected the way you found it. Ask Jefferson Westwood, David Salley or Jim Stenger if you need training on the unit. The log-on password is kept with the laptop.
- c) In-person group size is limited to 40 people, assuming air quality readings are within acceptable range (carbon dioxide under 1,000 ppm).
- d) Meet in the large room and provide at least 3-foot spacing between participants. Mask wearing is generally optional; see more under section 3) c).
- e) Turn on the homemade air filtration unit, and run it throughout the meeting. The “high” level is recommended unless it is too noisy.

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- f) Use the air quality meter (kept in a box near the laptop). Periodically check the level of carbon dioxide (a proxy for exhaled particles). Record the before and after meeting readings in the log provided. If the carbon dioxide reading goes above 1,000 ppm, open doors and windows to “air out” the room, and discontinue the meeting as soon as possible. Then notify David Salley, Jefferson Westwood or Jim Stenger within 24 hours and furnish them with the meter reading data.
- 3) In-person worship will resume on May 1, 2022. The Worship Committee will use the following guidelines:
- a) There will still be a Zoom option, both for observers and participants.
 - b) Some way will be provided for at-home participants to have their Joys and Concerns incorporated into the service and to participate with others in the Coffee Hour afterwards. Our goal is to also have a way for those at home to be able to participate by sharing readings, prayers, or music.
 - c) Mask-wearing is generally optional, with this exception: Congregants may speak or sing during the service if they wear masks during those times. Speakers and designated worship service singers may speak/sing unmasked if they have received a negative rapid COVID test response within four hours of the start of the service.
 - d) The Buildings and Grounds Committee will designate someone to monitor the air quality in the room. Adjustments to this plan may be made based on air quality measurements.
- 4) Food and Drinks: No food or drinks will be served. In-person attendees are invited to bring their own beverages and/or snacks for after the service. If the weather permits, people may gather to socialize outdoors. However, tables, chairs and other furnishings from the building are not to be taken outside.