

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

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

The following policy is put in place by the UUCNC Executive Board, **effective August 29, 2022**, and replaces all previous policies. It was developed by the Reopening and Gathering Team and the Executive Board, based on the most recent New York State and CDC guidelines, using data reported at covidactnow.org.*

This plan is subject to change if changing conditions warrant. The Executive Board may update this policy and implement any changes without any waiting period for the change to take place. In the case of any future changes in the COVID policy, the Board will inform congregants of such changes in as timely a manner as possible.

UUCNC understands the need to commit to offering dual platform worship services, and it will continue to do so. This format allows optimal verbal and visual sharing between those present at 222 Temple St. and those participating online.

- UUCNC will continue to prepare/distribute orders of service prior to each service.
- UUCNC will reduce the number of people involved in worship technology each week from five to three.

General Provisions:

1. Mask wearing will be optional and up to the individual to assess risk. All are encouraged to seek full vaccination whenever possible.
2. Musicians and those singing will keep appropriate distance from one another (2-3 feet apart is suggested).
3. Beverages and/or snacks may be prepared and shared at 222 Temple St. **ONLY**:
 - When there is a plan that ensures a designated person wears gloves and a mask while serving beverages;
 - Single serving snacks only will be offered.
4. Open windows whenever weather conditions allow to improve air quality. The box fan filter should be running while the building is occupied. Adding another box fan filter is recommended for improved air filtration.
5. Other groups (Soul Matters, etc.) meeting in person at 222 Temple St. will offer dual platform opportunities for participation.

*** Sources:**

New York State Governor Hochul issued a statement on August 22, 2022, which outlined the updated COVID guidelines for NYS residents. To read the full press release, go to <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-updates-new-yorkers-states-progress-combating-covid-19-330>

CovidActNow.org, the site UUCNC currently uses to assess local rates of risk for spreading and contracting COVID, has issued a statement that they have chosen to use and follow the CDC guidelines for assessing COVID risk exposure. Learn more at <https://covidactnow.org> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.