

Guidelines for Reopening

Unitarian Church of Montpelier

May 4, 2021

Our UCM mission statement is:

“We welcome all
as we build a loving community
to nurture each person’s spiritual journey,
serve human need,
and protect the earth, our home.”

These guidelines are intended to provide us with a framework for resumption of safe, in-person worship and use of the church in a way that is open to all. We follow the State of Vermont’s guidance for participating in a faith-based event or service:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/your-community/communities-faith>. We are also mindful of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s (UUA) guidance for member churches. The Executive Team may update these guidelines based on evolving public health recommendations.

Current state: (mid-April 2021)

- Our building is closed.
- Services are conducted online, with a small number of individuals in the building.
- Staff and essential volunteers are allowed to work in the building in a limited capacity, scheduling time, masking and using air filtration devices.
 - Those choosing to work in the building must complete, and pass, all of the current COVID screening questions.
- Very limited activities (e.g. community lunch prep, care package prep, cleaning and maintenance) are allowed to be scheduled in the building.

Phased reopening Phase 1:

Criteria for entering reopening phase 1:

Daily New Cases: at or below 1 per 100,000 people per day in the area. (NYT COVID dashboard: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>)

- **Test Positivity:** testing in the area is widespread and 3% (or less) of the tests are positive. (Vermont COVID Dashboard: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/vermont-dashboard>)
- **Vaccination:** COVID vaccine is available, and at least 60% of eligible population (currently those who are older than 16 years old) are vaccinated. (Vermont COVID

Vaccine Dashboard: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>)

- **Air Quality:** Air quality project planned, not complete.

Building use:

- Our building is open with limitations on attendance.
- Services are conducted in-person and online, with 50% of capacity allowed in person. Other activities, including rentals, are likewise limited to 50% of normal capacity.
 - Attendees are required to wear a mask and maintain six feet of separation between family units. This requirement may further limit attendance numbers.
 - Attendees are required to self-certify on the honor system that they pass all of the current COVID screening questions. Reminders will be posted via signage, website, and e-news.
 - Group singing is not permitted.
 - Proof of vaccination is not required, although vaccination is encouraged.
- Staff are allowed to work in the building in a full capacity, scheduling time, masking and using air filtration devices.
 - Staff choosing to work in the building must complete, and pass, all of the current COVID screening questions. Vaccination is encouraged, but not required.

Phased reopening Phase 2:

Criteria for entering reopening phase 2:

- **Daily New Cases:** at or below 0.5 per 100,000 people per day in the area. (NYT COVID dashboard: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>)
- **Test Positivity:** testing in the area is widespread and 1% (or less) of the tests are positive. (Vermont COVID Dashboard: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/vermont-dashboard>)
- **Vaccination:** COVID vaccine is available, and at least 80% of eligible population (currently those who are older than 16 years old) are vaccinated. (Vermont COVID Vaccine Dashboard: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>)
- **Air Quality:** Air quality project complete. (Pending congregational approval)

Building use:

- Our building is open with no limitations on attendance.
- Services are conducted in-person and available online in some form yet to be determined.

- Attendees will mask according to the State of Vermont guidance for participating in a faith-based event or service.
- Singing is permitted.
- Staff are allowed to work in the building in a full capacity.
 - Staff choosing to work in the building must complete, and pass, all of the current COVID screening questions.
- Activities are allowed to be scheduled in the building, with appropriate safety protocols for both renters and UCM users, specified in the “Vermont Forward Roadmap to Reopening” as follows: “Masks and physical distancing are encouraged, and all attendees stay home if sick and practice proper hand hygiene.”

The Executive Team is responsible for monitoring any changes in community conditions and/or building conditions that may require UCM to step back to a lesser stage of reopening.