Unitarian Universalist Society
Coralville, Iowa

COVID RESPONSE
MARCH, 2021

Covid Task Force Members: Marsha Cheyney, Mary McMurray, Peg Voelker, Dan Gall, Jessica Zimmer, Peggy Garrigues, Emma Barnum, Kim Palmer, Rev. Diana Smith, and Amy Fretz
Prevention: Our Promise to You

• We will do all we can to not put people’s lives at risk while at UUS. It is not worth dying for. We are committed to your health.

• We seek to protect the health of all who use the building.

• We will use only vetted up-to-date medical and public health information from reliable sources to make decisions.

• We will obey the laws and guidelines set by the State of Iowa and guidelines given by the CDC.

• We will be transparent with the congregation and consider their input.

• We will apply all recommendations consistently, not making exceptions for individual desires, renters, status at UUS, or financial impact.
Current Status

• COVID were at their lowest since October of 2020 but have crept back up again over the past week.
• New variants threaten our progress.
• Vaccines are on the move!
• To achieve herd immunity 70-85% of people must have survived COVID or get the vaccine.
• As more and more states lift restrictions we are at risk for a surge.
Why aren’t we open yet?

• The state recently changed their metrics for reporting COVID cases.
• The metrics we were using previously are no longer reported.
• This led UUS (and many others) to have to redo our phases for reopening which were approved by the Board 3/18.
• The COVID Task Force is committed to opening and maintaining the safety of all who come to UUS.
Monitoring

• The COVID Team will monitor county data on a weekly basis.
• Monthly meeting minutes will be submitted to the board in advance of board meeting.
• Metrics must be met for one month before reopening suggested.
• Specific recommendations for reopening will be made to the Board based on scientific approaches at the time.
• Recommendations for changing the phases for reopening or guidelines will be made as science and data change.
• The Board has the ultimate decision-making authority for the safety of all attending UUS.
CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Low Transmission Blue</th>
<th>Moderate Transmission Yellow</th>
<th>Substantial Transmission Orange</th>
<th>High Transmission Red</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days</td>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>10-49</td>
<td>50-99</td>
<td>≥100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days</td>
<td>&lt;5.0%</td>
<td>5.0%-7.9%</td>
<td>8.0%-9.9%</td>
<td>≥10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1If the two indicators suggest different levels, the actions corresponding to the higher threshold should be chosen. County-level data on total new cases in the past 7 days and test percent positivity are available on the County View tab in [CDC’s COVID Data Tracker](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/).
Metrics Used by UUS to Assess Reopening:
This guidance is based on the current CDC guidelines. Our #’s are adjusted slightly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>Phase 4</th>
<th>Phase 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Risk</td>
<td>Substantial Risk</td>
<td>Moderate Risk</td>
<td>Low Risk</td>
<td>New Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-Day PCR Tests</td>
<td>14-Day PCR Tests</td>
<td>14-Day PCR Tests</td>
<td>14-Day PCR Tests</td>
<td>14-Day PCR Tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positivity</td>
<td>Positivity</td>
<td>Positivity</td>
<td>Positivity</td>
<td>Positivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10%</td>
<td>8-9.9%</td>
<td>3.1-7.9%</td>
<td>&lt;3%</td>
<td>&lt;3% for 6 wks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-Day Positives per capita &gt;100</td>
<td>7-Day Positives per capita 51-100</td>
<td>7-Day Positives per capita 10-50</td>
<td>7-Day Positives per capita &lt;10</td>
<td>7-Day Positives per capita remain &lt;5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Must be in Phase 2 2 wks. before moving to Phase 3
- Must be in Phase 3 2 wks. before moving to Phase 3
- Must be in Phase 4 6 wks. before moving to Phase 5
Current Metrics:
https://iowacovid19tracker.org/johnson-county/

As of 3/30/2021
14 Day PCR Tests Positivity 4.78
7 Day Positives Per Capita 79.12

Phase 2

- While our Tests Positivity Rate puts us in Phase 3, our Positives per capita are higher putting us in Phase 2.
- We begin reopening in Phase 2. We will stay in Phase 2 for 2 weeks before proceeding to Phase 3. This gives us time to assess our how things are going and make adjustments if necessary.
- If conditions worsen, we will go back to a more restrictive phase in accordance with our guidelines.
While the Task Force supports everyone getting a vaccine, we will not require everyone to receive the vaccine in order to gather.

If you have received a 2-shot vaccine, it takes 2 weeks after the 2nd shot to achieve immunity. Avoid crowds until that time.

If you have received the vaccine, you may still get COVID. The vaccine should eliminate serious illness or death if you do get COVID.

If you are vaccinated, you still risk being able to carry the virus to others at this time. Please wear a mask and wash your hand frequently.

Since UUS is a public gathering place, the CDC still recommends face masks and social distancing when people gather.

Our children under age 18 are unable to be vaccinated at this time! Many adults are also not yet eligible or able to access it.
**Mission**: We are a welcoming spiritually diverse home. We act on our values:
- Honor the Earth;
- Advocate for racial and social justice;
- Nurture deep connections;
- Embrace the ongoing quest for meaning.

**Vision**: We aspire to be a more inclusive, loving, diverse congregation that welcomes all people. We will defend and celebrate the Earth, confront racial and social injustice, and nurture deep connections.
We are committed to our mission/vision!

• Our mission continues through connecting in a variety of ways. We are committed to full inclusion.

• We will only go forward with in-person services when people who cannot attend in person can continue to participate online.

• While not everyone will be able to be included in group gatherings, we look to offer a variety of different ways for members/friends to engage with UUS.
One issue the task force has struggled with when making decisions on opening is how to include everyone in UUS activities. We are committed to finding ways for all members/friends to be included.

Inclusivity may mean that we offer a multiplatform approach that reaches out to people in different ways so all who want to be included are.

Many may not be able to gather in person for quite some time due to their personal circumstance. Please be in tune to this as you begin to come back to UUS.
Considerations for group meetings & Inclusivity

- Is there anyone in your group that will not be able to hear if all are wearing masks?
- Are there parents in your group who are not able to meet in person because of risk to their families or because they have a commitment to a learning pod that does not allow them to socialize outside that group?
- Are there people in your group who may not be able to be vaccinated and may be uncomfortable meeting?
- Are there people in your group who may not feel comfortable but who will not express this?
- How do you include people who may not want to share their difficulties with health or other issues that may stop them from meeting in person?
- Is there anyone in your group who cannot attend and how will you include that person?

Is it better to continue to meet via Zoom until your group can all meet in person?
Community of Communities – Paula Jones

• We all belong to more than one identity. We present as varying identities depending on who we are with and what we are doing.
• A church’s identity is known by its communities
• How do we build various communities within UUS: young adults, music program, children and families, seniors, social action, environmental, all inclusive you get the idea
• People within a congregation belong to multiple communities based on their interests or how they define themselves
• UUS’s identity also comes from its connection to community outside its walls and how it interacts with those communities.
How can UUS spread our wings?

• What is UUS known for? (what are our communities that are known beyond our walls)
• What types of communities might help us be nimble and create spaces for different needs?
• Are you willing to help as we begin to look at how to navigate in this direction?
Hold listening sessions & share information.
Look at what modifications we can make inside our building in preparation for fall.
Fine tune preparations for groups meeting outside/inside.
Continue to monitor all current news related to COVID and how it affects us moving forward.
Continue to assess phases 4 and 5 guidelines and develop strategies/plans/resources for worship.
Look at all the ways UUS can have a multilevel platform of communities so everyone who wants to be part of UUS can participate.
How can you help?

- **Be involved**: Attend groups, listening sessions, volunteer for teams and committees. We need you. We need AV volunteers and volunteers to help us move into a new era of UUS!

- **Be patient**: As we begin to gather again it will be stressful and conflict may happen. Hang in there!

- **Help others**: Let’s help each other get through. Reach out to anyone who is confused or needs help.
Phase 2 Guidelines: Outside Groups

Up to 10 people - no more than 7 different households
Group Leader signs up with Emma, makes sure everyone signs in/out, makes sure building is locked upon leaving
Face Masks required.
Maintain social distance of 6 ft.
Restrooms open but building closed.
No staff contact.
Stay home if not feeling well.
References


https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics

https://iowacovid19tracker.org/johnson-county/


https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019


https://www.uua.org/leadership/library-multi-platform-resources