



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF CLEARWATER

2470 Nursery Road • Clearwater, Florida 33764 • Telephone: 727.531.7704 • [www.uuc.org](http://www.uuc.org)

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## **Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater Covid Safety Guidelines** ***(Revised March 14, 2022)***

The following Covid safety guidelines for Sunday Worship Services were approved on March 14, 2022, with one over-riding principle and value: How do we balance the risk Covid presents with a quality Sunday worship experience?

These guidelines are an update to the original safety measures adopted in October 2021. Both the original and updated guidelines were developed by an ad-hoc committee made up of Transitional Minister Rev. Roberta Finkelstein, Transitional Director of Lifelong Learning Meredith Olson, and Board of Trustee member Eloise Hardman. They were approved by the Executive Committee of the UUC Board of Trustees and affirmed by the full Board of Trustees by email.

These guidelines are effective March 20, 2022. They will be posted on the UUC campus and on the UUC website.

**Do not attend any in-person gathering if you are experiencing any of these symptoms: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.**

### **Inside the Octagon (Sunday worship)**

- Face masks are required indoors for everybody over two years of age. Disposable masks will be available for those who do not bring their own.
- Vaccinations are required for everybody currently eligible to be vaccinated. We will use the honor system regarding vaccinations.
- Joys and Sorrows will continue to be submitted online in advance of the service.
- We will not hand out a printed Order of Service. Every attempt will be made to display the elements of the service on the projection screen. We will still provide the order of service in the E-Octagram for those who want to print their own and bring it with them.
- Collection baskets will not be passed. There will be a lock box in the sanctuary for your financial contributions.
- Social distancing will remain in place, though all pews can be utilized. Everybody has permission to ask for more space around them. Everybody has an obligation to honor the safe space requests of others.



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- Families with children are welcome to attend worship. We are not providing a special family/children section at this time. Children will remain with their families during the Story for All Ages.
- Singing inside the Octagon by congregants in the pews is allowed, as long as they are masked.
- The service in the Octagon will be live streamed over Zoom and available to watch in real time as it is occurring. The sermon will be recorded for later viewing on the UUC website.

### **Before and after the service**

- The Welcome Table may resume being inside the lobby. The only people the Welcoming team needs to track or “check in” are visitors or newcomers, as we already have contact information on members and pledging friends. Should an attendee at a worship service report later that they have tested positive for Covid, we will send out notifications to visitors and to the congregation.
- We will provide colored dots for name tags at the Welcome Table for people to indicate their level of consent: — Green means “go ahead and hug me” — Yellow means elbow bumps or handshakes only — Red means don’t touch or come close.
- Ushers will walk people to the name tag board to avoid crowding and then seat them. We suggest people take their name tags home to avoid crowding and maintain social distancing around the name tag board each week.
- Coffee and tea will be offered by UUC, but people are encouraged to bring their own mugs or thermos. The Social Hall will be open for conversation and coffee hour, and masks may be removed when drinking and eating. Until we have trained, volunteer kitchen managers, there will be no snacks served by UUC. We will experiment with having the coffee and hot water urns outside the Social Hall, weather permitting, so that people who are uncomfortable being inside with others, can get their coffee/tea and converse outdoors.
- We encourage people to use both the sanctuary and social hall bathrooms. If there is a line for bathrooms use the 6-foot social distancing practice in line.



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Separate safety guidelines for small group meetings at UUC remain in effect.

- Times, dates and locations must be arranged through the office administrator (per the policy on facilities use scheduling and rental fees).
- The size of the group cannot exceed 25 people.
- All users of UUC facilities, including congregational members and friends as well as tenants, will adhere to government-issued health standards or guidelines. Please note new guidance from the CDC as of February 2022.
- Food service is not permitted indoors at this time, although individual group members may bring their own beverages or snacks and are responsible for removing all refuse from the building.
- Group members should express their physical contact preferences (none, handshakes only, hugs, etc.) to each other.
- In the spirit of inclusivity, small UUC groups are expected to extend an invitation to those who cannot attend in person to join by phone or Zoom.