

COVID Safety Policy: Adopted on **June 10th, 2021** - Updated Date **September 9th, 2021**

These guidelines are recommended to uphold our UU values of inclusion, developed in consultation with federal, state, and county standards while holding each other in community. We affirm that research and science, coupled with our UU values, must be the basis upon which we make decisions about in-person gathering.

Our policies and practices for Covid safety will be informed by UUA updated guidelines, as well as referential to current Sonoma County data. One of our primary sources of information is: [Sonoma County COVID Dashboard](#).

DELTA

The presence of the Delta variant in our broader community means the possibility of “break through cases” in which even vaccinated individuals may be able to carry the virus and transmit it to others. While many in our UUP community are vaccinated, some adults may not be vaccinated. Children under 12 do not have an option of vaccination at this time and so are considered particularly high risk.

We also have immunocompromised and medically vulnerable people in our community. Even if vaccinated, immune systems with low antibodies may be at higher risk for contracting the illness.

VACCINATION

UUP is proceeding with the following guidelines for gathering with the assumption that many, *but not all*, adults are vaccinated in our broader community.

We strongly encourage vaccination for all members of our UUP community. Please see information, here: <https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/encouraging-vaccination>

All UUP staff working with unvaccinated children and youth will be required to be vaccinated and to show proof of vaccination.

See information: [>> https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/staff-vaccinations](https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/staff-vaccinations)

As children below age 12 cannot yet be vaccinated, we will hold children and youth religious education activities outdoors or online at this time.

USING COVID ACT NOW WEBSITE DATA (See [Covid Act Now](#))

The UUA provides this information:

For Congregations in Counties Labeled High Risk

If COVID Act Now considers your county and/or surrounding counties to be at high risk, we encourage your leadership to pay close attention to the infection trends and be prepared to adjust your plans as needed.

The three biggest factors to monitor are Daily New Cases, Infection Rate, and Test Positivity. If any of these is moving upward in your community, your area's risk may soon be considered very high or severe and it may be important to take more restrictive precautions to help prevent further transmission in your area.

OUR UUP PRACTICES

Larger gatherings indoors and outdoors that concentrate a high number of attendees in one place for prolonged periods of time will be avoided. Worship will continue in September (and possibly longer) to be held on Zoom as we move towards working on hybrid arrangements that can include remote and outdoor in-person possibilities in the near future.

In September, we will experiment with UUP events which will occur outdoors, keeping to the above guidelines, as we generally seek to keep our numbers lower to more easily manage health and hygiene concerns.

Current Guidelines for Official UUP Events:

Outdoor events are recommended at this time.

Follow all posted signage

Please stay home if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Runny nose, sore throat
- Headache
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Outdoor events:

- Masks must cover the nose and mouth and are required to be worn at all times. Masks are to be surgical masks, unvented N 95 masks, or well fitted fabric masks. This is for any outdoor event where unvaccinated children or other vulnerable people are included, and for outdoor gatherings of any size in counties where transmission is Very High or Severe (per the [COVID Act Now data](#) and Sonoma County data).
- Social distancing observed where possible
- Hand sanitizer to be made available
- Food service at UUP is discouraged at this time.
- We will follow UUA guidance on singing or not singing safety during these times: <https://www.uua.org/pandemics/gathering-guidance/outdoor-gatherings>

Acting together we will keep each other safe while we build our community and our new home

IMPORTANT NOTE: If the Board, working with the Covid Safety team, determines that our area has moved to a point where our transmission risk is Very High or Severe (per the [COVID Act Now data](#) and Sonoma County data), UUP may need to suspend all large, in-person (indoor and outdoor) gatherings.