

# Reopening Protocols for the CUC Building

*Recommendation to the Governing Board – June 8, 2021, approved*

## Reasons for proposed changes to reopening protocols:

The CDC has issued new guidance for vaccinated individuals and we know that a high percentage of our congregation is vaccinated. Our original reopening timeline relied on the county Covid classifications that the state of Ohio was providing on a weekly basis but the state is no longer producing this report. Consequently, the Reopening Task Force has concluded that the best approach for the present is to reopen the building with clear protocols and then modify them as new information and guidance emerges. As time goes by, these guidelines will eventually be relaxed but we can't predict when that will be, only that we will continue to monitor information from various sources.

## Reopening philosophy:

As we reopen our building, we plan to have protocols that go beyond the minimum guidelines. We know that some members of our church family, including visitors, are immunocompromised or are unable to be vaccinated due to age or health status. Others are still uneasy about public gatherings so we want to demonstrate respect and make them as comfortable as possible. We don't want to screen people and ask about vaccination status. For all of these reasons, we will require everyone to wear masks while in the building and offer distancing options so that everyone feels welcome and cared for as they join us for worship and other church activities. Our intent is to modify our protocols slowly and carefully over time in order to show Christian concern for our neighbor.

## Building Use:

Effective immediately, the church building may be scheduled for use by any church and community group subject to the following protocols. Zoom will continue to be available for groups to use if they prefer.

## **BUILDING USE PROTOCOLS**

### General expectations:

- Signage at entry: "Welcome to our church building. We are so grateful that we can open our building while maintaining a level of safety during the pandemic. We appreciate your following our protocols and precautions - and taking care of others who are also using the building." We will leave up the signs currently on the building that ask that no one enter if they have experienced symptoms or been exposed.
- The church will have hand sanitizers for all church visitors to use.
- **Anyone entering the building is expected to wear a mask over his or her nose and mouth and maintain six feet physical distance except where explicitly permitted. Avoid entering any staff office unless invited.**
- Please be mindful that medical science doesn't fully understand COVID -19, and that contracting the virus can lead to long-term serious health consequences or death. Remember that others may be at higher risk than you are or might live with someone who is at risk. While most in our congregation are now vaccinated, we can't be sure who is not and should always behave as if we are around someone still at high risk.
- **The church will provide cleaning supplies and people using the area are expected to wipe down high touch surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, chairs that were used, and table surfaces) after use. If a restroom was used while in the building, those doorknobs, light switches, and faucet**

**handles should also be wiped down after each use. Each room will be stocked with spray bottles with disinfectant and paper towels. A sheet will be provided reminding what should be clean and asking for a signature and date as the rooms are cleaned.**

### **Protocols for meetings in the church building**

1. All General Expectations (above) are to be followed
2. Maximum participants per room:
  - Friendship Hall: 30 maximum (10 tables with three at each)
  - Amigos Room: 12 maximum (4 tables with 3 at each)
  - Room 10: 12 maximum (6 spaced around the table, plus 6 spaced around the outside)
  - Other classrooms – 6 maximum (could be 8 if some are members of the same household)
  - Library – 4 maximum
3. The Workroom (room 2) is open to church members with a 2-person maximum, with distancing and masks maintained. This room is closed to outside groups.
4. Extra chairs beyond the maximum occupancy rates per room listed above will be removed, stacked, or marked to indicate they should not be occupied.
5. The **kitchen may be used if the following protocols are followed** with prior approval by the church office.
  - A maximum of four people from a group may enter the kitchen to make coffee and then transport it to the meeting room, where cups etc. will be set up.
  - When using the kitchen, high touch surfaces must be cleaned when use is complete - doorknobs, light switches, faucet handles, and (if touched), cabinet doors, drawer knobs and the refrigerator handle. A separate sheet will be provided which will list what should be cleaned and have a place for signature and date when the surfaces have been cleaned.

### **Protocols for meetings held outside the building**

Being outside lessens the risk of the virus being transmitted and so our safety guidelines are lower. At a minimum, groups are asked to require masks until people are seated but at that point masks may be removed provided the seats allow for six foot distancing between household groups. If seating is closer than that, then masks should continue to be worn.

The building may be accessed to use the restrooms provided masks are worn while in the building.