

UU Church of Waterville
COVID-19 Protocols and Advisory Group

9/20/21

In light of the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UU Church's Board of Trustees has formed an ad hoc **COVID-19 Advisory Group** to regularly monitor the situation using official metrics (from the U.S. CDC and Maine CDC, for instance) and to guide the Board in adjusting church protocols accordingly. It is disappointing to not be able to relax our guard, but the intent is to ensure the health and safety of all church members, friends, and associates.

The Advisory Group--consisting of board members Sarah Seder (chair), Sally Harwood, Jon Rogers, and Linda Seekins, as well as administrative director, Beth Schiller--began meeting via Zoom on September 15, 2021 and plans to meet on a roughly weekly basis, as needed.

The Board had already decided at its August meeting to continue online (Zoom) services through October 31, 2021. **Given the current numbers in central Maine and the state as a whole, the Board has approved the following Advisory Group recommendations.** *These will, of course, be adjusted as conditions change and every effort will be made to keep all of our members and friends as up-to-date as possible. Please direct any questions to Sarah Seder at sseder@roadrunner.com*

Recommendations effective September 20, 2021:

- **No In-Church Group Meetings for now:** Church groups should meet remotely (via Zoom, FaceTime, etc) or outdoors, rather than in the church building.
- **Necessary Use of the Church only: Valid reasons** for being in the building include:
 - Using the organ and piano for church service music (including practicing)
 - Using the kitchen and lower entry way for the Evening Sandwich Program
 - Accessing or delivering documents and other items related to church business
 - Cleaning or performing maintenance, safety checks, and repairs
- **In-Church Protocols:** Individuals who *must* be in the church for valid church business (see above) must follow **pandemic safety protocols:**
 - Wear a multi-layer, well-fitted mask that covers nose and mouth
 - Stay 6 feet apart (when gathering is unavoidable)
 - Practice good hygiene (handwashing and/or sanitizing)
 - Refrain from eating or drinking
 - No group singing
- **Outdoor Protocols:** When meeting outdoors, follow **pandemic safety protocols:**
 - Wear a multi-layer, well-fitted mask that covers nose and mouth
 - Stay (at least) 6 feet apart
 - Practice good hygiene (hand sanitizing)
 - Refrain from eating or drinking
 - For outdoor singing (if any), singers should wear masks, distance as much as possible, and keep singing time to a minimum