

Unitarian Society of Germantown

Use of Outdoor Space During the Pandemic – Update September 2021

9/3/2021

The USG protocol for use of outdoor space has been updated in consideration of the status of the pandemic and new guidelines from the CDC and UUA. It will continue to be revised according to the best judgment of USG leaders as the COVID-19 public health situation evolves and governmental policies are updated. The requirements are subject to change without notice. It must be recognized that even with precautions, it is possible that there may be exposure to COVID-19 at USG. *Participants acknowledge this risk when choosing to meet at USG.*

This protocol does not address singing outdoors. That will be the subject of a separate protocol.

Application of UU principles and values

We continue to be committed to including all who wish to participate in USG life. We must recognize that not everyone who attends USG or USG events will be vaccinated against COVID. There will be some who cannot get vaccinated (including children under 12 at this time), and others who choose not to do so. All are welcome.

In addition, some of us may have different levels of comfort in connection with COVID precautions. Those who choose to wear a mask or observe social distancing will be treated with acceptance and respect, whether or not masking or social distancing is required by this protocol.

People will not be asked their vaccination status, and USG will not verify anyone's vaccination status. If it is not known that everyone in a group has been fully vaccinated, it will be assumed they are not.

General health requirement

Please stay home if you are feeling unwell or have been exposed to somebody who has had a positive test for COVID or suspected COVID within the past two weeks. If you are fully vaccinated and had a negative COVID test 3 to 5 days after your exposure, you are clear to attend.

Requirements depend on risk level

The requirements for outdoor meetings will depend in part on the current risk level for Philadelphia County as determined by Covid ActNow, which can be found at:

https://covidactnow.org/us/pennsylvania-pa/county/philadelphia_county/?s=22401166.

The Covid ActNow risk levels are:

Green: Low

Yellow: Medium

Orange: High

Red: Very High

Purple: Severe

When the risk level is Purple (Severe), the grounds will be closed for outdoor meetings.

Who can use USG outdoor space

USG outdoor space is open for USG activities involving children and adults, subject to the following conditions.

What is required for a USG gathering outdoors

NOTE: Child Spiritual Development (CSD) may have more restrictive requirements for CSD events outdoors.

Masks

In accordance with guidance from the City of Philadelphia, people who are not vaccinated or are not fully vaccinated are asked to wear masks indoors and outdoors when around others. Masks are required for children aged 2 – 11. Fully vaccinated people ages 12 and up will not be required to wear masks outdoors, except during worship services. However, masks are strongly encouraged in groups where it is not certain that everyone has been fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated means the participant is two weeks past the second Pfizer or Moderna shot, or two weeks past the single Johnson & Johnson shot. And remember, some of us may choose to wear masks even if we have been vaccinated.

Physical distancing depends on risk level

Yellow and Orange zone (medium or high risk level): Three feet of space is required between units or pods, regardless of whether people are vaccinated.

Red zone (very high risk level): Six feet of space is required between units or pods, regardless of whether people are vaccinated.

Bathrooms and kitchen

Bathrooms inside the building will be available if needed. No more than 3 people or one pod are permitted in the bathroom at one time.

The kitchen may not be used, except to get a drink of water if needed.

Singing outdoors

Singing is the subject of a separate protocol. Please consult the protocol on singing.

Reservations

Reservations are necessary for scheduled meetings or events. To reserve space, the leader should complete the application found on the USG website at <https://usguu.org/members-online/request-meeting-space/> or send an email to communications@usguu.org.

Leader requirements

The group must designate a leader. The leader will be responsible for

- Scheduling the space (see below for how to schedule)
- Informing all attendees of all conditions and requirements in advance of the meeting
- Enforcing any mask and social distance requirements (leader or their delegate)

That's it.