

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF GERMANTOWN
Guidelines for Indoor Worship

*Updated 3/22/2022
Current as of 4/23/2022*

How we have approached this

USG's COVID Task Force, which has multiple healthcare professionals as members, is responsible for advising on COVID safety. The Moving Ahead Steering Committee (MASC) is charged with exploring how to move forward with multi-platform (in-person and Zoom) worship and activities. The COVID Task Force advises on what is safe, and MASC makes it operational. Everything done at USG must comply with the guidelines and recommendations of the CDC, the City of Philadelphia, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

COVID has presented recurring challenges to our ability to worship in-person together. We suspended indoor worship for a time this winter due to a rise in COVID, and resumed indoor worship in February with limitations. With the approval of the COVID Task Force, we have relaxed some of these limitations, as outlined below. USG will continue to offer a remote option for those who do not attend in person.

Guidelines for Indoor Worship:

The Board has adopted a USG Covenant for COVID Safety that applies to everyone who enters the building at USG. It provides:

USG Covenant for COVID Safety

USG welcomes you to participate in the life of our spiritual community. If you enter the building, you agree with loving kindness that:

- you and anyone with you who is age 5 or older are fully vaccinated. If you are eligible for a booster, you have received at least one booster
- you will wear a mask covering your nose and mouth in accordance with USG requirements
- you will follow all other COVID Safety Protocols and requirements, including social distancing, that USG may have in place at that time, and
- you are free of COVID symptoms or recent known exposure to COVID.

If you are not fully vaccinated, we warmly invite you to participate in Zoom services every Sunday and in other USG activities on Zoom. And please get vaccinated and boosted if you are eligible.

Additional information:

- Masks
 - Masks are required in the congregation. Masks must cover the nose and mouth. N-95, KN-95, and surgical masks provide the best protection against Omicron; cloth masks, neck gaiters, and scarves are not recommended.

- Masks are not required for persons while speaking or singing from the pulpit or chancel. They remain subject to vaccination and distance requirements.
- Distance
 - Please keep a distance of 3 feet between units or pods.
 - Persons speaking or singing from the chancel must be at least 12 feet from the congregation.
 - The capacity limit in the sanctuary (including the chancel) is 120.
- Singing
 - As noted, masks are not required for persons while singing from the chancel, but they must follow vaccination and distance requirements.
 - Congregational singing is allowed
- Contact information and other requests
 - We invite attendees to provide contact information if they wish to be notified if they have had a potential exposure to COVID at USG
 - We ask attendees to notify USG if they become ill or test positive for COVID within two weeks following the service they attend
 - And please stay home if you are sick
- Announcements: We will provide oral and written announcements advising congregants of the various safety measures discussed above.
- Passing the plate: Worship Arts, Welcoming, and Ushers have the flexibility to decide how they wish to handle passing the plate.
- Fellowship hour: for now there will be no eating or drinking indoors, except for water. We look forward to resuming indoor fellowship hour in the future.

end