

Crooks Memorial United Methodist Church COVID Related Guidelines

Introduction

The Healthy Church Team intentionally focuses on and assesses our ongoing COVID related guidelines. This is done in connection with the Discipleship Team who acts as the Conference-prescribed Post-COVID Re-entry Group (PRG) at Crooks Memorial and is focused on the reemergence of ministry and mission. As we continue to resume in-person activities we seek to foster an environment that is conducive for community building, fellowship, ministry, and mission while maintaining safety for all. The following guidelines are based on our context, CDC/health guidance, experience, and prayerful thought. If you feel your ministry group or activity is not covered by any of the below guidelines, please contact Marylee Dawson (Healthy Church Team, Chair), Laura Whitefleet-Smith (Discipleship Team, chair) or Pastor Lisa.

The following guidelines must be followed by all individuals on church property, all church related groups (on premises or off premises) and all outsiders groups using the church facility.

For ease, we have summed up the guidelines to Three Simple Practices, which are further explained within this document.

Three Simple Practices

- 1) **Masks are required for all individuals (ages 3yrs+)** indoors at all times. No food related activities may occur on or off premises due to the requirement of masks.
- 2) **Social Distancing is required to the extent possible.** We recommend refraining from sharing objects and physical touch.
- 3) **Health Monitoring & Notification:** All are required to stay home when sick or experiencing COVID related symptoms. If you have been exposed to someone with COVID it is expected that you will follow all CDC guidance, based on your vaccination status, regarding quarantining.
All must notify the Pastor if after attending an in-person gathering you develop 2 or more symptoms of COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19, or discover you were exposed to COVID-19 prior to attending the in-person gathering.

Mask Requirement for All Individuals: All individuals (ages 3yrs+) are required to wear a mask at all times for all indoor church-related activities, events, worship, etc...on or off premises. Outside groups using the church building must also adhere to this mask requirement. *Exceptions: 1) As instructed during worship to partake of communion. 2) Those leading worship from the chancel area and properly distanced from others may remove their mask while speaking if fully vaccinated. (preacher, liturgist, lay reader, etc...)*

Social Distancing: We require that social distance be maintained to the extent possible. Refrain from sharing objects and physical touch (handshake, hug, embracing). Seating for worship will be available at places marked with stickers in every other pew. We encourage you to limit your indoor fellowship time after worship.

Encouragement for Vaccination and Boosters: As a means of “doing no harm” and loving our neighbors as ourselves, we encourage all members to be vaccinated and receive boosters unless not medically possible.

Children (infant through 11 years) Classes and Gatherings and Adults Working with Children: All children ages 3yrs+ and the adults working with them are required to wear a mask at all times while indoors. An exception to this is in the Church Nursery (infant through 3 years) where 3-year-olds may remove their mask while in the nursery during worship. Social distancing will be maintained to extent possible.

Food associated with Church Activities: There is to be no food related church activities indoors at this time on or off premises.

Food or Drink Preparation in Church Kitchen: All food prepared (cooked or using catered trays) in the kitchen for distribution as take-out/to-go should be done with the best hygiene practices to include hand washing and the wearing of gloves. Any towels used should be taken home, laundered and then returned to the church. Any utensils used should be washed in the sink or dishwasher using appropriate cleaner. Towel dry and return to the appropriate drawers. After the event, the team will clean/disinfect counters, sinks, etc... All trash will be placed in the dumpster outside the church building.

**Definition of fully vaccinated: Per the CDC, one is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-shot series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine. Persons are still considered to be “fully vaccinated” even if they have not received a vaccine booster shot.*