

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. 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 these 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 outsides 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 unvaccinated individuals (ages 3yrs+)** indoors at all times for gatherings with more than 10 people.
- 2) **Groups of 10 or fewer persons** may meet without restrictions as long as all participants present agree.
- 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 test positive for COVID-19, or discover you were exposed to COVID-19 prior to attending the in-person gathering.

Masks are required for all unvaccinated individuals (ages 3yrs+) indoors at all times for gatherings with more than 10 people. This includes all church-related activities, events, worship, etc...on or off premises. Outside groups using the church building must also adhere to this mask requirement.

Groups of 10 or fewer persons may meet without restrictions as long as all participants present agree.

In the Church Nursery (infant through 3 years) 3-year-olds may remove their mask while in the nursery.

Food Associated with Church Activities: Food consumption may occur with any indoor or outdoor group, event, or activity. However, since unvaccinated individuals must keep their masks on at all times indoors, they will not be able to partake of food while inside. Participation is still encouraged and whenever possible, “take-out” options should be made available. If outdoors, unvaccinated individuals may partake of food.

Food or Drink Preparation in Church Kitchen: All food prepared (cooked or using catered trays) in the kitchen for distribution 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.

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.

***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.*