

Working Document of In-Person Practices

Revised March 11, 2022

This document was developed by an appointed team of staff, congregation members, and congregational leaders. It was made in consultation with documents from the Centers for Disease Control, the Insurance Board of the United Church of Christ, and fellow churches and clergy. It also takes into account data from a survey of our own members. What has been developed is a living document that reflects our collective desire as a congregation to come together again in-person in a way that is both safe and inclusive of our differing levels of comfort.

We will continue to reassess and make adjustments as we determine how best to move forward, following first and foremost, the [guidance](#) of our local health experts at Austin Public Health.

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Indoor Worship

Arrival Practices

1. Ventilation

- a. HVAC System will begin running two hours before worship and remain running two hours after for ventilation.
- b. Air purifiers will be turned on in occupied spaces when staff arrives, and will be turned off when those spaces are no longer occupied.

2. Those who meet ANY of the following criteria are asked to worship with us at home:

- a. You are experiencing a recent onset of any of the symptoms of [COVID-19 listed on our door sign](#) OR
- b. You have been in [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19 within the last 5 days AND are not vaccinated OR not [up-to-date](#) with COVID-19 vaccination OR
- c. You are awaiting a COVID-19 test result OR have tested positive in the past [10 days](#) OR
- d. You have recently returned from [domestic](#) OR [international](#) travel AND are not vaccinated OR not [up-to-date](#) with vaccination

3. Those who meet ANY of the following criteria are asked to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) that fits snugly over the mouth:

- a. You who are not [up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination](#) OR are immunocompromised.
- b. You are between the ages of 2 and 5 years old.
- c. You are a child or youth who attend public school (until the end of March).

4. Social Distancing:

- a. Worshippers will be encouraged to maintain safe social distancing.
- b. When it is not possible to socially distance, overflow seating will be managed by deacons.

5. Other

- a. Hand sanitizer, extra masks, and thermometers are available upon entry.

- b. Use of the guest book will be encouraged to provide contact information so that all may be alerted, along with our community, of any positive Covid-19 case reported.

In Worship Practices

1. Children in Worship

- a. Masks will be required for any unvaccinated children over age 2 indoors.
- b. Masks will also be required for all children and youth indoors, ages 2 and older, regardless of vaccination status, through the end of March.
- c. Thermometers are available for temperature checks.
- d. Nursery care will be available beginning on March 20th.
- e. Those who work or volunteer with children will be required to be [up-to-date](#) on their [Covid-19 vaccinations](#).
- f. Children may have the option to come forward for Children's Time.

2. Communion Practices

- a. Worshippers may come forward for communion if they wish.
- b. Worshippers may choose between sealed communion kits OR practicing intinction.
- c. Communion servers will mask.

3. Other Worship Practices

- a. Church attendees will be asked to sign the pew pads, which will assist in contact tracing, should a COVID-19 exposure occur.
- b. The "Passing of the Peace" will encourage mindfulness for other's comfort level.
- c. Worshippers may sing.

Post-Worship Practices:

1. Coffee Hour may resume.
2. In-Person Christian Education for all ages may resume in-person.

Outdoor Worship

1. Outdoor worship services may be held at the staff's discretion and weather permitting.
2. Masks will be optional for all during outdoor worship.
3. The "Passing of the Peace" will encourage mindfulness for other's comfort level.
4. Worshippers may sing.
- 5. Those who meet ANY of the following criteria are asked to worship with us at home:**
 - a. You are experiencing a recent onset of any of the symptoms of [COVID-19 listed on our door sign](#) OR
 - b. You have been in [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19 within the last 5 days AND are not vaccinated OR not [up-to-date](#) with COVID-19 vaccination OR
 - c. You are awaiting a COVID-19 test result OR have tested positive in the past [10 days](#) OR
 - d. You have recently returned from [domestic](#) OR [international](#) travel AND are not vaccinated OR not [up-to-date](#) with vaccination

6. Communion Practices

- a. Worshippers may come forward for communion if they wish.
- b. Worshippers may choose between sealed communion kits OR practicing intinction.

Other Ministries

1. All ministries may resume in-person if they wish.
2. We will continue to encourage hybrid opportunities to provide accessibility to all.
3. Nursery care will resume March 20, 2022.
4. All staff and volunteers working with children are required to be [up-to-date](#) on their [Covid-19 vaccinations](#).
5. Hand-washing, social distancing, and self-screening will be encouraged verbally and with signage.
6. Masks will be optional for all during outdoor activities.

Notes

- **We will continue to reassess and make adjustments as we determine how best to move forward, following first and foremost, the guidance of our local health experts at Austin Public Health.**
- Link to [Austin Public Health Guidelines](#)
- Get a [Vaccine or Booster](#)
- [Covid-19 Testing](#)
- [Link to Center for Disease Control Guidance](#)
- [Link to Travis County Dashboards](#)

Tenants

We will ask all outside groups using the building to:

- Follow [APH Guidelines](#) for masking and quarantine.
- Encourage social distancing, handwashing, and self-screening
- Inform the church of any positive Covid-19 cases among its attendees

Metrics for Revision

The above practices will be re-evaluated when any one of the following conditions are met:

- May 2022 (when spring church programming ends)
- Austin Public Health revises its [guidelines](#) for Covid-19 practices
- Travis County falls to stage 1
- Travis County reaches stage 4
- Travis County reaches stage 5
- Children under 5 years of age are approved for vaccination