

From: Board President, Greg Nichols
RE: New Policies For Indoor Gatherings
Effective OCTOBER 15, 2021

The board of trustees adopted new policies relating to in-person gatherings sponsored by the church at a special meeting on October 7. This policy applies to all church sponsored meetings (both indoors and outdoors), and to all events held in the church building. The new policy will become **EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 15, 2021**. These policies acknowledge that meeting the needs of all members of the congregation will only be achieved through a combination of adequately precautioned in-person and indoor gatherings and continued availability of virtual electronic programming for those needing to participate from remote locations. We will be moving forward with a combination of multiplatform delivery of services and other programs.

The document which contains the policies to be effective soon is on this same LENS of the Future page.

I encourage everyone to read the full document, including the introduction, to understand the complete list of new policies, and equally important, the rationale for taking these actions. The policies include, but are not limited to, the following for all in indoor events:

- all persons attending must be fully vaccinated if eligible and not subject to an exemption
- masking will be required for all participants
- personal physical distancing preferences will be addressed
- personal contact information will be gathered should it be needed for subsequent health notifications
- singing and limited food and beverage service will be allowed with proper safeguards followed.

The first service and first forum to be conducted in-person with remote connections also enabled and conducted under the new policies will be Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021.

The following table compares the new policy to the current requirements.

Activity	Current	Effective 10/15/21
Vaccination Status	No requirement	Required if eligible
Masking	Required indoors	Required indoors (no change)
Contact Info	Record attendance	Register vaccination status prior to attending
Physical distancing	No requirement	Options will be provided
Air purifiers	No requirement	Required in smaller rooms
Singing	Allowed	Allowed (no change)
Food and beverages	Some limitations	Allowed with precautions
Notify church if become ill	Required	Required (no change)
Group size limit	<50 in the church	No requirement
Time between large meetings	Min 60 minutes	No requirement

The Board and the Lens of the Future committee will continue to monitor health data, best practice recommendations from public health authorities and UUA sources, and community conditions. We will refine our policies and procedures as conditions continue to change in the coming weeks. The Risk Level for Polk County as reported by the CovidActNow.org web site will be updated weekly, and the current Risk Level will be included in the Intercom. It will also be posted on the web site, along with graphs of

several of the metrics that go into the determination of the risk level. The latest data can be found on this same LENS of the Future page.

It is reasonable to expect that there will be continued refinements and modifications as time moves forward. In the meantime, these changes will put UCDSM at the forefront of UUA member congregations moving in this direction. We encourage everyone to be cautious in behavior to minimize health risks to self or others, be patient with staff and members as they begin providing programs in new ways, and be positive as to our direction to move ahead to better serve the needs of all as we implement these changes.