

Unitarian Church of Montpelier (UCM)
Guidelines for Church-Sponsored Outdoor Activities
During the Covid-19 Pandemic Era
Updated as of November 17, 2021
Subject to change based on state and medical guidance

The UCM building remains closed to most indoor activities, until/unless reopening criteria are met (see separate Reopening Guidelines). Church-sponsored events inside private homes are authorized for church groups whose participants meet current state guidelines around multi-household gatherings, specifically those regarding individuals who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19. The following guidelines apply to **outdoor** activities both on and off site. They were compiled by the UCM Covid-19 Task Force after reviewing guidance from the CDC, UUA, relevant Vermont state agencies, and Church Mutual (UCM's insurance company). They were approved by the UCM Executive Team (ET).

Examples of church-sponsored activities include meetings of staff, leadership groups, committees, teams, and youth groups, as well as other activities organized by church groups. **Organizers of the event (e.g. committee chairs, youth group leaders, etc.) should familiarize themselves with these guidelines and the Event Sign-in Sheet before the event**, to avoid misunderstandings. **Organizers must provide sufficient paper copies of the Event Sign-in Sheet** and ensure that all participants (or their parent/guardian) complete it before participating in the event.

1. Small groups (approximately 10 or fewer) of fully vaccinated individuals may meet without masks or social distancing.
2. In larger groups or mixed-age groups, everyone must adhere to 6' social distancing. They should wear a mask when 6' distancing is not possible. Exception: Masks for children preschool and younger are at parents' discretion and under parents' supervision.
3. Participants (or their responsible adults in the case of minors in 8th grade or younger) must complete a [UCM Event Sign-in Sheet](#) that includes their contact information and asserts their freedom from Covid-19 exposure and symptoms. (Recent contact, travel, cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste/smell – listed in more detail on the form itself.)
4. Regardless of location (church grounds or off-site), communal singing is permitted if singers are masked and distanced.
5. **This paragraph applies only to activities on church grounds.** Such planned activities must be scheduled with the Office Assistant (ucm.space@gmail.com). Anyone entering the building must sign in and out on the Building Sign-in Sheet provided, and follow all procedures listed. Anyone using a rest room must run the exhaust fan and thoroughly wash their hands. Church entrance doors must remain locked at all times, *especially* upon departure. Use of the kitchen (except for the handwashing station) is prohibited. No church chairs may be taken outdoors. Participants may bring their own chairs. Other church furniture and supplies may be taken outdoors **only** if authorized by a staff member.

If your particular situation is not covered by these guidelines, please err on the side of caution. Use good judgment and good hygiene. Address questions to ucm.reopening@gmail.com.