

United Church Council – Pandemic Protocols adopted August 3, 2021

Due to several factors concerning the Covid19 pandemic—including the rise in Covid19 cases and deaths, the extremely contagious Delta and other variants, and the fact that safe and accessible vaccines are available for all persons over age 12—and to protect the congregation and the wider community, as well as set an example, the United Church Council reviewed both current pandemic data and also the protocols of several Santa Fe and Albuquerque congregations that are similar in size to United.

Based on that information, the Council adopted the following statement and protocols to be followed until further notice:

Our faith calls us to love our neighbor. In this time of global pandemic, we show that love for neighbor by following health and safety protocols and encouraging others to do the same. Because scientists are still learning how much of a viral load a vaccinated person can carry and because the United Church community includes children who are too young to be vaccinated and adults who cannot be vaccinated due to medical conditions, the United Church of Santa Fe adopts the following protocols:

1. Church publicity (website, newsletter, etc.) will clearly state that the United Church **expects** all participants to be vaccinated, unless a person's medical condition and/or age precludes vaccination.
2. The Church will continue to provide online worship services for the foreseeable future.
3. The Church will continue outdoor worship services at least through mid-October.
4. In case of inclement weather for Sunday worship, the service will be held in the education wing, which has good ventilation. All persons who had signed up for the outdoor service will be notified of the change via email by Sunday morning. Seating for the indoor service will be limited and participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
5. Small groups (up to 20 people) may meet indoors if need be, but will be socially distanced, masks required, with windows and doors open.
6. For small groups (up to 20 people) meeting outdoors, masks are optional but social distancing is required.
7. All United staff and volunteer leaders (including but not limited to, Church Council, Youth Leaders/Mentors, Congregational Care members, and persons singing in Choirs) must provide proof of full vaccination for Covid19 to be kept in confidential file at the church.
8. Masks, social distance, and registration will continue to be required for outdoor worship.
9. Anyone not feeling well must not attend an in-person event. Anyone who has been in close contact with someone having COVID-19 must not attend any in-person event until after the self-isolation period has ended.

We trust that United members and friends will understand the spirit in which these protocols are offered. We value the inclusivity that has always been a hallmark of our congregation, and at the same time, we also value the commitment to science, the safety of the community and our commitment to set an example that have also been hallmarks of our congregation.

These protocols are in place until further notice.