**Returning To In-Person Activities Advisory Group**

**RIPA Recommendations to Session for Advancing Re-Entry**

**As of 6/10/21**

**Recommendations for Summer 2021, until Session meets mid-September**

**Guiding Principles:** The science is telling us that vaccinated people are safe overall; unvaccinated persons and those with certain health conditions are most at risk. Our policies will be guided by CDC and NJ state guidelines, providing faithful opportunities to gather, keeping in mind what’s beneficial for the community within and beyond PCOL.

**A - INDOORS**

**1 - Worship:**

- **Allowed Attendance (# limits)** – Up to 50% of room capacity

Thus, for Meetinghouse allowed number = approx. 200 people; for Fellowship Ctr. = approx. 80 people, etc.

(Specific allowed capacity numbers will be verified per Fire Code requirements.)

- **Who Can Attend (Ages)** – All ages can attend; it will be up to parents of children 12 and under to assess risk. (A cautionary message for those not vaccinated will be communicated.)

- **Vaccination Status** – All are welcome, although it is recommended for fully- vaccinated individuals to attend.

- Parents of young children, those not fully vaccinated and those with compromised immune systems will assess their own risk.

- PCOL will urge that all members who are able become vaccinated; we’ll provide assistance as needed to support this. This advice will be communicated through all of PCOL’s communication means.

- **Distancing Requirements** – Reasonable physical distancing will be required and only households are to sit together. Ushers will seat people to support distancing (i.e., every other pew), especially for those identifying as not fully vaccinated.

- **Masks/Worship Leader Masking** - Required for indoor activities, including for children 2 years and older. Worship leaders and vocal musicians who are fully vaccinated will wear masks except when up front directly leading the service/singing. (Unvaccinated leaders/musicians will wear masks throughout.)

- **Registration & Attendance Records** – Pre-registration (either online or by phone to the church office) will continue. Collection of name/contact information still required for anyone not pre-registered. Attendance records will be maintained for at least two weeks after each service/event, should contact tracing be needed.

- **Responsive Liturgy/Passing The Peace** – Spoken word allowed (with appropriate masking). Passing of the Peace – people will remain in their pews, with no touching.

- **Singing** – Allowed quietly, with masks on

- **Taking Offering** – Offering plates will remain stationary at each entrance, no passing.

- **Communion** – Pre-packaged communion elements will be provided. Masks will be removed only for the consumption of the elements.

- **Baptisms** – Allowed indoors with adapted liturgy and in consultation with pastoral staff. Otherwise outdoors.

- **Self-Screening Guidelines** – Continue use, and communicate to all groups using facilities.

- **Windows** – Open whenever weather allows, including balcony windows. Fans can be used at open windows aiming outside only.

- **Restrooms** - Restrooms available for use for 2 people at a time. Signage to remind people to physically distance when waiting to use restroom.

- **Sunday School & Childcare** - No Sunday School scheduled over the Summer; no Childcare will be provided. As appropriate, Children’s Ministries will provide some programming preferably outdoors, with distancing and masking required.

- **Hand Sanitizer** – Continue to require use upon arrival, at front and back of Meetinghouse.

**2 – Other Indoor Gatherings/Activities:**

- **Allowed Numbers** – 50% of allowed capacity per indoor space -see above. Specific maximum allowed attendee numbers by room will be calculated based on fire code- allowed capacity.

- **Masking/Social Distancing** – Still required for all indoor activities

- **Registration/Attendance Records** - Continue to require maintenance of attendance records with contact information for all attending; retain for at least 2 weeks.

- **Food** – not allowed indoors over the Summer

- **Restrooms** – Available for 2 people at a time. Signage to remind people to physically distance when waiting to enter restrooms.

- **Surface Cleaning** - Still encourage use of hand sanitizer and surface cleaning of high- touch surfaces with sanitizing wipes/cleaner after use.

- **Self-Screening Guidelines** – Continue to require use; to be communicated to all groups utilizing facilities. Temperatures for children no longer required before admittance.

**B - OUTDOORS:**

- **Allowed Attendee Numbers**: No limit, as long as safe distancing accomplished. Continue asking attendees to bring their own chairs.

- **Masks & Distancing** – Masks Required for **Worship**, regardless of vaccine status. Tents to be set up for worship to support distancing.

- For **Social Events** – Masks Optional for fully-vaccinated attendees.; Masks required for those not fully vaccinated, per CDC guidelines. Important to distance when unmasking to eat outdoors.

- **Food** – Allowed if pre-packaged individual servings; no passing/sharing

- **Singing and Responsive Liturgy Participation** – Allowed if all are masked.

**References:**

- CDC “Choosing Safer Activities” – cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019

- CDC “Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility” – cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019

krbuda; RIPA Recommendations to Session per Advancing Re-entry as of 6-10-21